

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



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ABOLITION OF THE COMPULSORY NEWSPAPER-STAMP. PERMANENT ENLARGEMENT OF THE "ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS."

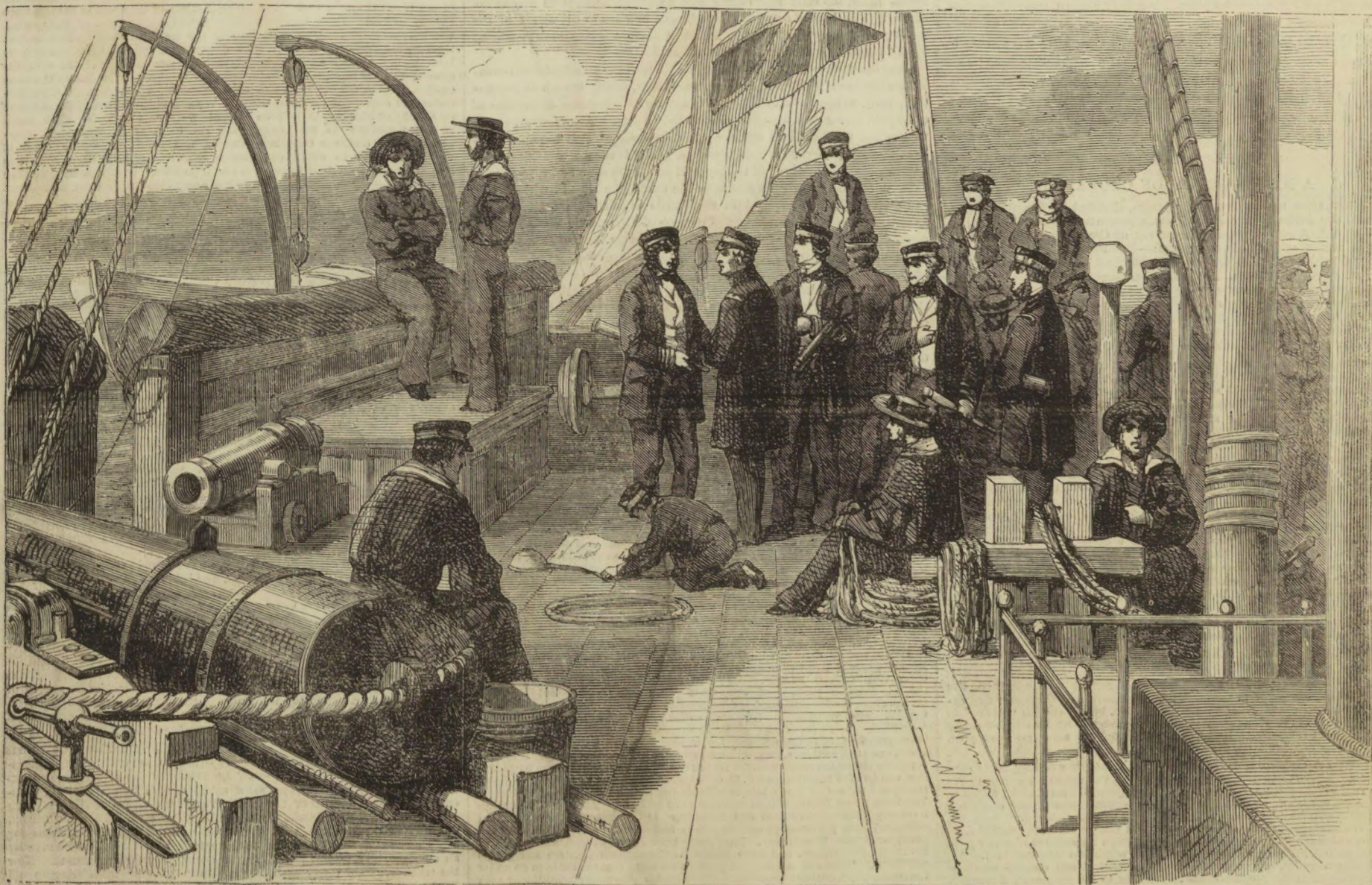
THE little—or, perhaps, large—world of newspapers is in a state of revolution. The stupidity of successive Administrations, which could not define in strict legal phraseology what a newspaper meant, and the consequent neglect of Attorney-Generals to prosecute the cheap unstamped press, which boldly and systematically set the law at defiance, led, as a necessary consequence, to the abolition of the compulsory stamp. But, even when matters reached this point, the Government and the House of Commons had neither the inclination nor the capacity to consider the question in all its relations. Swayed, to some extent, by a dislike or hatred of existing newspapers, which had spoken home truths of men in office, rendered the tenure of office uncomfortable and precarious, and aided in the overthrow of Administrations and parties, as well as of abuses, one portion of the House was only too happy to countenance any project of change that afforded a reasonable prospect of inflicting damage upon those too powerful and too independent leaders of public opinion. Another and larger portion of the House, not understanding the subject, mixed up as it was with a question of postage, with which, strictly speaking, it had no real connection, consented to be led by the party which hoped to swamp the respectable press by the creation of a swarm of piratical journals, and quietly acquiesced in a settlement proposed by such an authority as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and which satisfied such a great legal personage as the Attorney-General. And thus the law which was intended to remove confusion only made confusion worse confounded. For three weeks before the measure had the force of law, before it had received the consent of the

Sovereign, or even of the House of Lords, a flood of cheap newspapers—imitating the titles, style, and general appearance, and stealing the news of existing journals—was let loose upon the land, to live a short life, no doubt, but to do sensible mischief, by bringing the law into contempt. And, as if to show an animus against the existing press, the very Government which tolerated breaches of the law on the part of these pirates and interlopers actually took the trouble to make a public and official announcement to this and to every other established journal in the metropolis, warning us that publication without the stamp was illegal, and would subject us to a prosecution. Surely administrative reform is needed, if it were only to make such officials act with common sense and common justice.

But, bad as this state of things was, the confusion thus created would soon have cleared itself, if the Government, by means of its Treasury minute regulating the transmission of books, pamphlets, and all other printed matter by post, had not introduced a new complication—of which the result will, in all probability, be a great and utterly useless sacrifice of the public revenue. By the joint operation of the Newspaper Act, and of the Treasury minute, the two sheets of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, weighing more than four ounces, may be transmitted fifteen times through the Post-office for the charge of one penny, provided the penny be paid to the Stamp-office; but, if the penny be paid by a postage-stamp, affixed on the paper itself, or on its cover, it will not be conveyed at all. Somerset-house is glad of the penny, but St. Martin's-le-Grand—if Somerset-house be ignored in the transaction—insists upon twopence, for performing once the identical service which it might be compelled to perform fifteen times, had the small but troublesome formalities of the Stamp-office been complied with. The result is that newspapers using good, thick

paper, like the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS and the *Times*, and weighing more than four ounces, are denied the privilege accorded to journals which use inferior paper. If the Government levied no Excise-duty upon paper, it might possibly find some justification for supporting the refusal of the Post-office to carry more than four ounces of book, pamphlet, or unstamped newspaper, for a penny. But the Government ought not to look at such a question through the spectacles of the Post-office. The Post-office is but one branch of the public revenue; and the Public Income, derived from many sources, ought to be the one object of the solicitude of a wise administrator. If, to secure for that portion of our subscribers who desire unstamped papers the privilege already accorded to all those who purchase papers weighing less than four ounces, we should feel it necessary, or desirable, to diminish the weight of the paper on which we print the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, we should inflict a loss of revenue upon the Government. The Excise-duty on paper paid by this journal, at its present weight, amounts to nearly £30,000 per annum. If we could diminish the weight of our journal to four ounces we should deprive the State of £10,000 a year, or as much as would pay the official salaries of the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. We are not alone in this condition, as the proprietors of the *Times* and many other journals can prove. But is such a sacrifice of revenue what the Government desires? If not, we think we are justified in designating its recent Treasury minute as stupid; and if it be, we think the same epithet will be found equally appropriate.

But, as regards this journal, we shall do our best to accommodate ourselves to the new circumstances thus created. On a careful consideration of the whole case, and of the wishes of the great bulk of our subscribers, we have come to the determination of en-



THE BALTIC FLEET.—FRENCH AND ENGLISH OFFICERS ON THE QUARTER-DECK OF H.M.S. "MERLIN."—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

larging the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS to double its original size and of reducing the price of the unstamped copies to Fivepence. By this means we shall give the purchasers of unstamped copies a double advantage—that of a reduction in price to the full amount of the abolished Stamp-duty, and of increased bulk. To subscribers who desire stamped copies for postal privilege the price will remain at sixpence, as before; but the size, the copiousness, and the general efficiency of the paper will be increased. To meet as far as possible the convenience of subscribers in the country, who may not always be able to obtain stamped copies, we shall hold ourselves in readiness, at any time within a week after publication, to exchange unstamped for stamped copies. By this means we shall do all that lies in our power to obviate the inconvenience caused by the joint bungling of the Post-office, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Lords of the Treasury.

Were it worth while we might expatiate at greater length upon the absurdity of which the Government has been guilty. We will only add to the statement we have already made the fact that a circular of a proposed penny daily paper has been brought under our notice, which unblushingly professes to rob the London press of the day previous to its own publication of its leading articles or "spirit," and which will be printed on paper so thin and small that a packet of four copies will go free for one penny under the Treasury minute. "If, therefore," says the circular alluded to, "four readers residing in small places, where regular news agencies do not exist, will combine and order a regular daily parcel, it will be forwarded free by post, upon postage-stamps for the amount being received, the publisher charging nothing for the postage." In other words, an unstamped cheap and flimsy paper, weighing one ounce, and contributing very slightly to the revenue in the shape of Excise-duty, may be conveyed for a farthing to any part of the country; when such a paper as the *Times* stamped would be charged three-halfpence, and if unstamped twopence!

But leaving, for the present, this part of the subject, and all its anomaly and injustice, we refer our readers with pride to the present Number of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, as a specimen of what it will be for the future. Compared, not only for quantity of paper and print, but for quality of paper, of engravings, and of literary matter—for excellence in every department, mechanical as well as intellectual—we think it will be universally acknowledged that it is incomparably cheaper than any of the swarm of low-priced journals that have suddenly sprung into existence. There may be room for such journals, or there may not; and no doubt they will attain as much success as their enterprise and intelligence may deserve—and no more. At all events, the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS fears no rivalry, either in price or quality. It stands upon its own grounds in the favour of the public. It is known and esteemed wherever the English language is spoken, and has its friends, correspondents, and artists in every part of the world. It will be the constant study of its proprietors, not simply to maintain, but to extend this high character and this great usefulness; to make the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS a welcome guest in every family in the realm, and the most dearly prized of all newspapers in those remote dependencies and possessions where Englishmen are building up new Englands, and spreading the name and race, the literature, language, laws, manners, religion, and power of the old country. The extension of our space will give us the means of recording and illustrating more fully than we have ever done before the events of this remarkable epoch. We may add in conclusion that we have already received not alone the assurance, but the positive proof, that the public fully appreciates the efforts we have made to keep pace with its requirements; and that a largely-increased sale will tax the mechanical genius of our age to provide a weekly supply that shall keep pace with the demand upon us. Even on this point we hope to be prepared for all emergencies and contingencies that may arise.

A NEAR SURVEY OF CRONSTADT.

THE Illustration upon the preceding page, sketched by Mr. J. W. Carmichael, our Artist in the Baltic Fleet, represents a group of officers on board H.M.S. *Merlin* taking a near survey of Cronstadt. The following are the names of the officers present:—The French Admiral Peinaud, Captains Codrington, Munday, Hope, Robb, Erskine, W. H. Hall, Glasco, Warren, Ramsay, Sullivan, Nugent; Commanders Boyd and Miller; Lieutenants Piers and Gordon. Our Correspondent's letter, describing the reconnoitre, and the explosion of a Russian infernal machine under the *Merlin*, was given in our Journal of last week.

A Correspondent of the *Times* describes a reconnoissance within eight miles of the point of Tolboukin:—

From this spot we perfectly surveyed the fortifications on the south side of Cronstadt, and particularly the huge batteries of Risbank, entirely constructed with granite, and mounting 100 guns of the heaviest calibre. We perceived with the naked eye, lying in the harbour, six ships-of-the-line, of which four are three-deckers, with their masts up; thirteen others, of which six are three-deckers, with their masts down; two frigates, and seven steamers. With a spy-glass we clearly saw the spires of the churches of St. Petersburg glittering in the sun. Three ships-of-the-line and two frigates are moored at the northern entrance of the harbour, which is, besides, defended by long and strong batteries, and various other works, protecting on all sides that part of the coast. Finally, a considerable flotilla of gun-boats is anchored under the protection of the forts. Those gun-boats are so close to each other that it is impossible to count them. They resemble a bridge of boats as broad as it is long. I do not exaggerate by estimating their number at 200. You cannot, accordingly, form an idea of the multiplicity of forts, batteries, redoubts, &c., which defend the place. Cronstadt is really the heart of the Russian power; and the Emperor naturally endeavours to heap Pelion upon Ossa to obstruct the entrance of his capital. With a little patience we shall probably find out the weak point of those granite walls behind which those Muscovite fleets obstinately shelter themselves which, two years ago, ruled unrivalled from the bottom of the Gulf of Finland to the extremity of the Baltic.

THE LATE JOHN BLACK, ESQ.—We regret to announce the death on Tuesday last of John Black, Esq., formerly and for nearly twenty-five years editor of the *Morning Chronicle*. Mr. Black was the "father" of the London press, which he adorned no less by his ability than by his manly and independent character. He had just completed his seventy-second year. We propose to engrave his portrait next week.

DEATH OF GENERAL ESTCOURT.—On Tuesday evening last Lord Panmure received intelligence per telegraph from the Crimea announcing the death of Major-General J. Bucknall Estcourt, Adjutant-General of the Forces in the Crimea, of cholera, on the 23rd inst. His Lordship immediately communicated the mournful intelligence to the deceased's eldest brother, Mr. Sotherton, M.P., of Eaton-place. The deceased went out last year with the staff of Lord Raglan, and throughout the severe winter campaign he enjoyed tolerably good health; indeed, his last letter from the Crimea, which was received in London on Monday morning, was written in the most confident and cheerful tone possible, giving the fullest assurance that, according to his judgment, Sebastopol would soon be in the hands of the Allies. Mrs. Bucknall Estcourt has been visiting her husband, and for the last few months has been at Constantinople and Balaklava. General Estcourt served in the expedition to the river Euphrates from January, 1835, to 1837, and for his services on that occasion he was promoted to the brevet rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

PARIS is still under the effect of the painful results of the late events in the Crimea. It is in vain that the public papers endeavour to present affairs in the most favourable point of view; but little faith is put in these reports, and it is with the utmost anxiety that further intelligence and more minute details are looked for. For ourselves, we doubt the wisdom of keeping back the truth in these matters, as it is now becoming the plan to do; it must declare itself at last; and the difference between the earlier statements of the facts and the ultimate revelations destroys all confidence, and, if possible, adds to the anxiety and perturbation that is generally experienced, from the idea it creates that, whatever may be related: "yet worse remains behind."

It is now currently whispered here that the Emperor seriously returns to the project of going to the Crimea; some even assert that the plan is decided upon, and that his departure will take place as soon as it is possible to arrange matters here to enable him to undertake the voyage. The Empress, previous to her departure for the Pyrenees, has appeared constantly in public, but frequently unaccompanied by the Emperor, who is said to be gravely occupied by the state of affairs. His Majesty is entirely recovered from his recent indisposition, and has appeared two or three times at the theatre.

Paris is very much fuller than it was a fortnight ago; and the price of furnished lodgings, which had fallen at least a third below the average first demanded, is rising again.

The Exhibition may now be considered about complete, and is very much better attended than it was, though on the five-franc days the attendance is certainly of the thinnest. Among the latest attractions added to the Exposition are the epaulettes and the *chapeau* of the Duke of Brunswick, and the boudoir of the Empress. The epaulettes in question and the *cordon de chapeau* are entirely composed of diamonds, and the cockade is formed of sapphires, surrounded by a row of splendid brilliants. The salon and boudoir of the Empress are *chefs-d'œuvre* of taste and elegance. The furniture of the former is in the style of Louis XIV., covered with an exquisite tapestry, representing figures in medallions, surrounded with rich arabesques. This tapestry was executed, under the direction of Madame de Maintenon, by the Demoiselles de St. Cyr, but never employed, and laid by in the *garde meuble*. In the revolutions that succeeded, it repeatedly changed hands, and at last fell into those of M. Mégarid, who has turned it into its present use. Having never been employed, it is now as fresh as when first executed, and is of singular beauty of design and workmanship. On a table, covered with one of the finest specimens of Gobelin tapestry, is the *presse-papier* habitually employed by Napoleon at St. Helena. The mirrors and ornaments of the salon are singularly beautiful. In a corner stands the little carriage presented by Prince Albert to her Imperial Majesty, in which she is wheeled about when she visits the Exhibition. The boudoir is hung with pink *moiré antique*; the roof, which rises in the form of a cupola, with the same material in pearl grey, and the curtains and furniture are in *moiré antique*, grey and pink. The carpet of both the apartments is of white damask, and, as may be supposed, visitors are required carefully to walk only on the foot-cloths placed to save them. There are special *gardiens* stationed at the door of this sanctuary, who explain the nature and origin of the different *chefs-d'œuvre* which it contains. It is surprising to observe the immense number of articles marked "sold" in the Exhibition, more especially among the specimens of British manufacture. Minton and Elkington have sold nearly the whole of their stocks of china and of bronzes, and various other English exhibitors have been almost equally fortunate. Last week the Princesse Mathilde visited the Building incognita, and made a variety of important purchases, among others a set of magnificently-executed ice-pails from the manufactory of Elkington. The astonishment and admiration of the country people and agriculturists at the construction and uses of some of our farm implements is not the least remarkable and flattering homage to British industry. The sight of many of these opens a new era to the minds of the intelligent farmers and peasants, and most of them are anxious to benefit by the discoveries for the first time revealed to them.

Here is a curious fact in statistics. At Elbeuf, the principal cloth-manufacturing town in France, it is computed that, taking the whole population, men, women, and children, each individual consumes at the rate of eight *petit verres* (liqueur-glasses) of brandy a day. As, however, many women and more children drink none, it is believed that the number of persons who do indulge in this beverage, which is of the most detestable quality, swallow upwards of twenty *petit verres* per diem!

The journals of the week announce the death of a woman whose name has already gloriously figured in the annals of contemporary history—Louisa Emilia de Beauharnais, Comtesse de Lavalette—whose heroic conduct through various phases of the Revolution, but more especially on the occasion when, by an act of courage and intelligence which has had but few parallels, she rescued her husband from the scaffold in 1815, has formed the theme of historian and poet. The mind that supported this noble woman through the dangers and difficulties of her position failed when the excitement was over; and from thence till the period of her death, at the age of seventy-five, her intelligence remained obscured, though her sweetness of temper and extraordinary goodness of heart never failed her to the end.

Colonel Fleury, one of the favourite and most distinguished officers of the Emperor's household, is about to marry Mlle. St. Paul, a young lady who possesses wealth, beauty, and distinction of manners and education.

THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.—The telegraphic communication between America and Europe, precedent to its extension round the globe is too large a theme for any single hero. It is an idea. And yet the parties engaged in its realisation regard it as already certain to be carried out. The experience of the Black Sea telegraph, for instance, is thought to be conclusive, if shorter lines previously established were not. From Balaklava to Varna the wires stretch under water more than 350 miles, and not the slightest difficulty is experienced in using them. There can, then, be no difficulty in sending electricity across the Atlantic by the same means. The length of the wires from Ireland to Newfoundland will be some 1750 miles; they will lie on the sandy plain which the soundings of our Government have shown to stretch from land to land for the whole distance, with the exception of about 200 miles next to the Irish coast, where the bottom becomes irregular and the water deeper. The actual distance is some 1600 miles only, but it will be necessary to make a detour with the wires in order to carry them round the Banks, where icebergs often ground, and where the cable might be broken by their weight and friction. Of the company which has undertaken the trans-Atlantic portion of the work we have often had occasion to speak. It is composed of some eight or more wealthy gentlemen, who propose to lay the entire line from St. John's, Newfoundland, to New York with their own resources. Peter Cooper is the president, and Moses Taylor the treasurer of this company; and Cyrus Field, one of its members, has just returned from Europe, where he went to consummate the arrangement with the European company. The American part of the line will be 1200 miles in length, 71 of which will be under the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the cost of the whole is estimated at a million and a half of dollars. The wires across Newfoundland will make 400 miles of the line, running through a country hitherto unoccupied and unknown. In the cutting of the path, and other preparatory labours the company have had 600 men employed during the past year in that island alone. They have been liberally aided with grants of land from that colony, and have obtained advantageous charters and grants elsewhere. From our last English journals we learn that the cable to go under the Gulf of St. Lawrence was about to be shipped, and we may accordingly soon expect to be able to receive despatches from St. John's as easily and regularly as we now do from New Orleans. This cable contains three electric wires only, it being contemplated to lay down another of the same size when the European wires have been brought across and the business between New York and London requires it.—*New York Tribune*.

THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

The telegraphic despatches from Sebastopol, which come down to the 27th, though brief, show plainly enough that the Allies are busily preparing for what we trust will prove to be the last deadly struggle before Sebastopol. Nor are the Russians idle: every effort is making to bring forward troops to the support of the beleaguered garrison. On our side the most energetic efforts have been made within the last eight or ten days.

Orders were transmitted on the 22nd inst. to the regiments in England and Ireland under orders for foreign service to prepare for immediate embarkation—viz., the 15th, 51st, 80th, and 84th Regiments of the Line, besides detachments from the various dépôt companies, and 1200 cavalry. Orders per telegraph were also transmitted to Marseilles, to be forwarded to the Governors of Malta, Gibraltar, and the Ionian Islands, to send as many efficient men, not only of the regiments stationed in those fortresses, but of the reserve of the Household Brigade and reserve battalions, as can be conveniently spared previously to the arrival of the reliefs of regiments of the Line and the Militia. These reinforcements will augment the British force before Sebastopol by upwards of 13,000 men; and, in addition, four field-batteries, a troop of Horse Artillery, and a reinforcement for the siege-train are in readiness, and only waiting for transports to embark.

The fleet in the Black Sea, also, which has performed such valuable services in the Sea of Azoff, is to be greatly strengthened. The gun-boats fitting out at Portsmouth are nearly complete. Fifteen or sixteen have their rig nearly finished, and a few days will see them ready to leave for the Black Sea. They are to be conveyed out in steamers.

One of General Pelissier's last bulletins states that the works in front of the Malakoff were nearly completed. To show how little confidence the Russians had gained from the repulse of the Allies, General Pelissier, in a bulletin of the 19th, says:—"The besieged, notwithstanding our failure of yesterday, grew alarmed last night, and for a long time they kept firing in the air from their guns." On the 20th he says:—"The besieged, closely pressed on the side of the Central Ravine, are setting fire to the little faubourg at the extremity of the southern port." Another despatch says:—"The enemy have abandoned their third five-gun battery on Mount Sapoune." Up to the 27th the preparations were going actively forward. We may expect, therefore, to hear important news before many days—perhaps before many hours.

THE REPULSE OF THE 18TH.

The letters from the Camp received by the last steamer give some interesting details relating to the preparations for the attack on the Russian works which ended so unfortunately. It appears that the Russians had made extraordinary preparations, in the belief that an attack would be made. On the afternoon of the 15th a considerable force of the enemy was observed to leave the north camp, to march along the heights towards the great roadstead, and afterwards cross to Sebastopol. A steamer brought over a portion of these troops, and at the same time had a barge crowded with soldiers secured to each side. This vessel, after disembarking the troops at the landing-place near Cape Nicholas, returned to the north side, and subsequently again conveyed a similar number across. Between thirty and forty large rowing-boats also crossed with troops. As no soldiers were observed to leave the south side, the very obvious inference was that these troops were reinforcements in anticipation of an expected attack, or for the purpose of assuming the offensive. It was calculated that five or six thousand had come across up to the time when the darkness prevented further observation of the enemy's movements. Just before midnight a very sharp musketry fire occurred near the Mamelon Redoubt. The Russians advanced against the French works from both sides of the Malakoff. Their skirmishers were, however, notwithstanding the darkness, observed, and the enemy found our allies fully prepared. They were compelled to retire after about ten minutes' fighting, and must have suffered immense loss. Not only the line of musketry fire from the French advanced parallel, but also some field-pieces which had been brought forward and were kept ready loaded with canister and grape, poured a deadly fire into their ranks. The severity of their loss was best shown by the fact that they fell back after their first failure, and did not repeat the attempt during the night. The attack was made just at midnight. The French casualties were very few. Both the English batteries on the right attack, and the French works on the other side of the Careening Bay ravine, opened against the enemy as they pushed forward to the attack, and kept up a fire against them as they were retiring.

The following letter shows that the intention to attack the Malakoff on the 18th was known two days previously:—

Before Sebastopol, June 16.

We are still at work with renewed ardour at the armament of our batteries of the Mamelon Vert and the White Works. All will be ready for the attack of the Malakoff on the 18th. The troops that are to take part in the affair are already told off. It is hardly necessary for me to speak to you of their spirit, which is, as ever, excellent. In spite of the numerous loss we sustained on the 7th, the Zouaves have not been discouraged, though their ranks have been thinned. They again reopened their theatre on the 8th, and with the same spirit; the receipts are productive, and continue to be sent to Constantinople, to alleviate the sufferings of their wounded comrades. General Pelissier still displays the greatest energy. We expect the attack of the Malakoff on Sunday or Monday, and, if we succeed, we then attack the place itself. In the meantime we are assured that the corps of the Tchernaya, composed of the divisions Canrobert, Camon, and Dulac, under the orders of General Bosquet, to whom considerable reinforcements have been sent, is to turn Liprandi's army, and to cut it in two if possible. It is also said that the fleet will be ready to take on board 30,000 men to land at Perekop, and to cut off the retreat of the Russians who may have retired to the interior of the country. General Pelissier has discovered the means of stirring up Lord Raglan. He simply said to him, "I have given such and such an order. I have indicated a certain part to your troops; if you are not decided let me know without any delay, and I shall lose no time in providing for the necessity." Lord Raglan, who is naturally desirous that his army should bear a part in all the important actions with the French, yields to the desire of the General-in-Chief. When General Canrobert used to communicate a plan to Lord Raglan, the latter invariably replied, "I shall give you my answer in writing in three days." All this slowness has been exceedingly hurtful to us, and it was high time to put an end to it.

EVACUATION OF ANAPA.—THE INVALIDE RUSSE.

THE *Invalide Russe*, that most inventive organ of the Russian Government, has found it necessary to manufacture the following account of the evacuation of Anapa, for the satisfaction of those loyal subjects of the Czar who believe that "the Russians can die, but never run away":—

As far back as March of last year, Novorossiisk, defended only by field fortifications to guarantee it against the attacks of the mountaineers, and Anapa itself, an old Turkish fortress, of irregular construction, offered none of the desired conditions for any chance of success against a double attack by land and sea made by an enemy with a powerful artillery and naval force at command; consequently, a longer occupation of those points and the defence of their lines of communication could not have had any other result than to prevent us giving to a considerable portion of our troops a destination more suitable to the moment.

From these considerations, Aide-de-Camp General Chomoutoff, Ataman *locum tenens* of the Cossacks of the Don, who holds the chief command in the territory of the Cossacks of the Black Sea, resolved on the 17th (23rd) May to evacuate, first, Novorossiisk as the point most distant from the Kuban, and then submitted to a council of war convoked by him the question of how far the occupation of Anapa was necessary.

Conformably to the decision of that council of war, Anapa was immediately evacuated; everything connected with the hospital and offices that could be easily removed was carried off; the guns were rendered unserviceable; the fortifications blown up, the buildings set fire to, and on the 23rd May (9th of June) the garrison was finally withdrawn. Its retreat was happily effected. Simultaneously with the evacuation of Anapa, the neighbouring stanitsas of the military transkuban colonists were suppressed.

Like all the statements made by the *Russian Gazette*, when a defeat has to be explained, this bulletin is full of glaring falsehoods. The considerations offered by General Chomoutoff are evidently not of a nature to excuse the military stigma which must attach to him for abandoning, without resistance, a fortress of the strength and importance of Anapa. The Ataman of the Don Cossacks describes Anapa as an old Turkish fortress, of irregular construction, that offered none of the desired conditions for any chance of success against a double attack by land and sea, made by an enemy with a powerful artillery and naval force at command. Now the truth is, as we lately showed, that Anapa, so far from being an old Turkish fortress of irregular construction, was a solid position, fortified by every resource possessed by an active and intelligent enemy. To the batteries of stone had been added earthworks, which would have offered serious opposition to an assailing army. The shallowness of the Black Sea in the Bay of Anapa prevented the co-operation with any chance of

success of the naval resources commanded by the Allies. The Russian General, with characteristic veracity, has denied the power possessed by Anapa of being able to resist with any success the efforts of the Allied land force. Unfortunately for him, the despatches of Admiral Houston Stewart disprove this statement; and the number of cannon, and their heavy calibre, abandoned by the Russian garrison, sufficiently betray the real motive of the evacuation, which was dictated by nothing less than that prudent caution which makes a Russian General always avoid an engagement unless he has a greatly superior force. No less than 158 guns and mortars of the heaviest calibre were mounted either on the land or the sea front of Anapa; which was, moreover, garrisoned by a force of 8000 bayonets. Grain in abundance was found in the deserted fortress, so that fear of famine could not have influenced the decision of the garrison. Another reason advanced by General Chomoutoff for the evacuation of Anapa is the absence of sufficient water for a garrison of any great strength. This is no less false than is the alleged weakness of the place. The river Bakan, a tributary of the Kuban, flows close to Anapa, and afforded that fortress plentiful supplies of water. We are, therefore, justified in considering the evacuation of Anapa by the Russians as a measure betraying a timidity we had not been led to expect.

The evacuation by the enemy of Anapa has permitted the return of the Allied expedition to the heights before Sebastopol. Instructions have been given by the Admirals to destroy the remnants of that fortress; consequently the dominion of Russia over the Circassian shores of the Black Sea has now terminated.

FUTURE NAVAL OPERATIONS.

The Allied gun-boats and smaller steamers, after destroying the fortress of Anapa, were to conclude their errand of destruction in the Sea of Azoff by annihilating Arabat, when their service will be required on more important points. The Allied Admirals have determined on inspecting the mouths of the Dnieper and the Bug, which will doubtless destroy the last resources possessed by the Russians of feeding their armies in the Crimea. Kherson will be probably destroyed, and an attack directed against Nicolaieff, which is scarcely of less importance than Sebastopol itself. At Nicolaieff exist the dockyards and stocks which have launched into existence the Russian fleet of the Black Sea, and the total destruction of that place is imperative.

An Allied force, four thousand strong, has been left at Yenikale, and the remainder of the troops who took part in the capture of Kertch have returned to assist in the approaching operations against Sebastopol. From the latest information from the Allied Camp we learn that an army not less than 60,000 strong is prepared to take the field against the enemy, whilst a sufficient force will be left before the town to prosecute the siege, and repulse any attack directed by the enemy against the lines of the besiegers.

THE HANGO AFFAIR.

The *Merlin*, Captain Sullivan, which has been sent on to Helsingfors, in order to ascertain the fate of the officers and men supposed to be murdered under a flag of truce at Hango Head, returned on the night of the 17th inst., and we learn that on approaching the shore a flag of truce was hoisted at the main, and the ship was anchored between 3000 and 4000 yards off the forts. An hour elapsed ere a boat was observed to stand out towards the *Merlin*, pulled by fourteen fine-looking sailors, all dressed in picturesque red serge shirts, and armed with long knives attached to a black belt round the waist. An officer, in full dress, with a gilt helmet as a head-dress, occupied the stern; a white flag in the bows, and the Russian ensign aft. They did not pull on board, but it appears they laid on their oars a couple of hundred yards off, when Captain Sullivan and Mr. Crowe pulled in to meet them. What passed between them does not transpire, but the interview was of short duration. However, the *Merlin* lay six-and-twenty hours off the place before she obtained an answer to the despatch. The same parties met, and received a letter of very formidable dimensions in return, addressed to the Commander-in-Chief.

From this it appears that the officers, Lieutenant Geneste, Mr. Easton (surgeon), and Sullivan (master's assistant), and all but four men, are prisoners of war, most of them wounded. The four returned as killed were those that the *Cossack* found in her cutter. Nothing is said regarding the fate of the Russian prisoners; it is consequently presumed they fell. No explanation is given as to the cause of their conduct, though it is rumoured that one reason was the parties in the boat were sounding the whole way in; and other accusations of the same nature are made, the correctness of which remains to be proved. The result of the flag of truce per *Merlin* is so far satisfactory that it relieves the families and friends of the officers and men of the suspense they must have been in regarding their fate.

BLOCKADE OF THE WHITE SEA.

A letter from Hammerfest, dated June 5, states that the British squadron destined for operations in the White Sea—consisting of the *Mcomder*, 44, Captain Baillie (Commodore); *Phoenix*, 9, screw, Commander Hayes; and *Ariel*, 9, screw, Commander Luce—passed that port to the northward on the 4th inst. The French frigate *Clopatra* was lying in Hammerfest harbour, waiting for two steamers to join her, when they would also proceed to their destination. A letter from Bergen, in Norway, dated the 12th inst., mentions that a French man-of-war steamer, bound for the White Sea, arrived there on the 11th, and after coaling proceeded on her way.

The actual blockade began on the 11th, at least a letter received at at Lloyd's, from Archangel, dated the 13th inst., states that "the blockade of all ports, roads, havens, and creeks in the White Sea has been notified on the 30th May (11th June), 1855, by the Commander of her Britannic Majesty's forces in the said sea."

THREATENED ATTACK ON PETROPAULOVSKI.

A letter from an officer in the *Dido*, dated Sandwich Islands, April 13, states that the British squadron in the Pacific was about to pay another visit to Petropaulovski, where they hoped to do something grand. The intended plan of operations is said to be, that the *Dido* and *Pique*, from the Sandwich Islands, shall meet the *Encounter* and *Barracouta*, the beginning of May, in Awatika Bay; and this squadron, under the command of Captain Moorhead, is to establish a close blockade. Should the defences be not stronger than before, we may attack it, but we are not to do so unless success is certain. The Admiral, in the *Monarch*, with the *President*, *Amphitrite*, *Trincmalee*, and *Brisk*, with two French frigates and a steamer, was to follow, and then the place was to be taken. The squadron was then to go to the Sea of Ochotok, when it would probably meet the China squadron, and attack a very strong settlement the Russians have at the mouth of the river Amor.

Later accounts from the Sandwich Islands state that the British squadron—composed of the corvette *Brisk*, and the frigates *Dido*, *Alceste*, and *President*—had left Honolulu for Petropaulovski, and it was supposed that another attack on that fortress would shortly be made. They expected to reach there by the 29th May.

AMERICA.

The American mail-steamer *Pacific*, which left New York on the 18th inst., arrived at Liverpool on Sunday.

The political news is exclusively of a domestic nature. The majority of Wise, the Democratic candidate for Virginia, had been considerably reduced. The returns, however, were not yet complete.

A majority of the committee appointed by the Convention at Philadelphia to frame a platform of principles for the government of the Know-Nothing party in its action bearing upon national interests, had reported resolutions accepting the existing laws upon the subject of slavery as a final and exclusive settlement of that subject in spirit and in substance, and denying the power of Congress to exclude any State from admission into the Union because her constitution does or does not recognise the institution of slavery as a part of her special system. The members of the committee who voted for this platform were all from the slave-holding States—the State of New York, the district of Columbia, and the territory of Minnesota. Those who dissented from it represented the six New England States, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Iowa was not represented. It was predicted that the resolution would be carried in the Convention.

Letters from Mexico to the 2nd of June state that Santa Anna had taken possession of Zamora, the insurrectionists leaving on his approach. The fugitives were, however, pursued, routed, and 2000 taken prisoners. Santa Anna returned to Morelia on the 21st, for Aris, where Comonfort was posted with 2500 men. Several smaller bands of the revolutionists had also been routed by the Government troops.

Intelligence has been received of an outbreak in San Luis Potosi, in consequence of the arrival of an emissary of Santa Anna with orders to arrest some of the leading citizens in the place. The whole country is in arms. An attempt had been made to take Monterey. The governor of Nueva Leon had fled. Information reached Matamoros of the pronouncement of San Luis Potosi on the 12th ult.: troops were preparing to leave that place to quell the insurrection. Chihuahua is also reported to be on the eve of a revolution.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM MOVEMENT.

THE second great meeting of the Administrative Reform Association, which took place on Wednesday, at Drury Lane, where every speaker sought and found the applause of the meeting by denouncing the incapacity of the Government, by narrating tales of its inefficiency, and giving examples of its mode of slighting merit and bestowing undeserved rewards on the scions of great families, was for us a proof of a most important change in the relations between the Government and the people. The sentiments of the orators and audience at Drury Lane are in unison with the sentiment of the majority of the nation, and they are those of undisguised contempt and dislike of our general system of Administration. Every office, it is now said, is given to family connections, and the public service is sacrificed to private considerations. Our whole system is condemned. This sounds strange, however just, to those who remember, and to those who have read, the history of former periods. It used to be the eulogium of England that the humblest-born man in the land could rise by merit to the highest station; and in our books we were told of the cabin-boy who became the most renowned navigator of the last century; of the great Admiral who was a poor parson's son; of the great Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, who was an attorney's boy; of the great Chatham, a mere ensign, with scarcely £200 a year, who afterwards ruled both Court and people; and we were taught to believe that England was the single land of Europe where merit could fight its way to the highest place. This, too, was perfectly true to the era of the first French Revolution; but that turned all the States of Europe topsy-turvy, and opened in other countries the road—before closed in all but England—for merit to preferment. If since then military and scientific skill have elevated individuals humbly born to high places in France and other countries, great civil dignities have here still rewarded men of talent, though born in the lowest ranks of life. The renowned brothers (the coal-viewer's sons) the two Scotts—one of whom became Lord Eldon, the other Lord Stowell; Lord Chief Justice Abbott, Lord Chief Justice Campbell, and Lord Chancellors Lyndhurst, Truro, and Sugden; the two Sumners, Archbishop and Bishop, are all examples—and many more might be quoted in public offices as well as in the walks of private life—of men obscure and even uneducated obtaining great eminence, renown, and wealth in England, such as they reach, whether in the service of the State or in private business, in no other country of Europe. Let us not, therefore, from the pressure of present temporary difficulties, or beguiled by the honeyed tongue of eloquence, forget our ancient honour, or doubt for one moment, even while we recognise fully the necessity for further improvements in our Administration, that the old free system of England was and is better than any of the systems of the Continent, to which some of the gentlemen even at Drury Lane would have us look for improvement. Bad as our present Administration may be, it has not been deteriorated, but much improved, since it was universally lauded, and since it really was for Britain much more beneficial, more consistent with national greatness than the Administrative systems of the Continent. Great as we must all admit our present difficulties to be, they are less the result of our free system than of the negligence of individuals, or the supineness of the public, or of the national attention being turned to other subjects which are only noticed on the Continent after England has led the way.

We are not in the slightest degree disposed to extenuate the carelessness or the neglect to which a long peace has naturally given birth in all the departments connected with war; but we must remind our readers that on this point, as on many others, our Administration has had many things on its hands which other Governments have not had to do. For example, great alterations in our fiscal and trade systems, in our criminal and civil jurisprudence, in our religious and constitutional laws, have been continuously and successively made through a number of years; and made after long and serious debates in Parliament—all these measures having been agitated for years, and having encountered great opposition. Questions of this kind have occupied the attention of our statesmen and our people, and we can with confidence assert that the sentiments promulgated in our debates, and the measures taken by our Legislature, have enlightened all Europe, and helped materially to meliorate the condition of the people. Our long debates, and the perhaps slowly-matured measures to which they led, have been for us well-timed reforms, and have saved England from those violent revolutions which—caused in part by our progress, and the neglect of statesmen abroad to imitate it—have convulsed France, Prussia, Austria, Spain, Italy, and nearly all the continent of Europe.

These statesmen have had little else to do than to keep up old systems and maintain military power; and the very revolutions which were brought on by the want of reform only made them devote more attention to keeping their armies efficient. Whatever progress civil society may make, our Ministers and all the subordinate members of Administration have, as the rule, no means of acquiring knowledge and skill in administering national affairs and organising armies which are not possessed by the Ministers of Austria, of France, or of Russia; and it is therefore to be expected that our Administration, when required to compete with that of Russia in waging war—the single object which has ever engaged the thoughts of Russian statesmen—should be scarcely up to its duties. To give this explanation of present deficiencies is not to apologise for them or to defend them, but it suggests their origin, and may lead us to the most suitable means of supplying them. Neither of these topics was touched on at Drury Lane, where much eloquence, much delightful wit, many charming anecdotes highly gratified the audience; and we rather help to fill up the little vacancies which the eloquent men who spoke there had not time to notice than run counter to anything they said, and the Administrative Reform Association proposes to accomplish.

If the general devotion of the public and statesmen through a long period to peaceable civil reforms be one of the causes of our administrative deficiencies in war, we may hopefully expect that the mere circumstance that the attention of the public and our statesmen is now necessarily directed to provide for the emergencies of war will speedily ensure for us great administrative improvements. In fact, they are already practically in progress, as Mr. Layard showed on Wednesday evening, in relation to mentioning sub-officers in despatches; and the pressure

of the public by the declaration of opinions elicited at such large assemblies as that of Drury Lane will hasten them. What the public, however, can do—except by advocating the sterling principles of bestowing honour and reward according to merit—in amending the details of Administration is not so clear. It cannot constitute itself a permanent committee to control all appointments. It must trust Ministers under their responsibility to the Commons, which we desire to see more stringently enforced, and, in accordance with what the Chairman of the meeting said, have already pointed the way in which (by a more careful organisation of departments, and the control of the public money) it may be done. The public must trust the Ministers to carry on the Administration as it trusts merchants to import the corn and wine it requires. The public necessarily has its own peculiar business to attend to, and it must not pay Ministers and do their business for them. Administrative Reform requires continual improvement. It is not one thing, like Catholic Emancipation, or the repeal of the Corn-laws, that can be done in one session of Parliament; it is a succession of many things to be continually done as society develops itself, and not an object which a league or association can otherwise promote than by expounding the principles of sound and good government, and making them the creed of the people. Not entirely distrusting the general honesty of our rulers, subjected as they continually are to the influence of the press and of public opinion; not believing that the public, or any part of the public, however wisely energetic now in seeking improvement, is wholly blameless for the faults of the Administration and the discredit into which our War Administration has fallen; not concluding, therefore, that all truth and all virtue are monopolised by one class of men, some of whom have become vigorous reformers in rather a suspiciously sudden manner; we rather regret to see the assembled companies of Drury Lane and St. Stephen's playing against each other, both wasting time and strength in rivalry—which might be better employed in sustaining the national cause, and smothering the perception of our mistakes, and the means of rectifying them—in wordy, and personal, and frivolous contentions, when the public interest now comparatively demands that both companies should only be emulous in fostering patriotism, in strengthening the sentiment of self-denial, and in making us, by "holding the mirror up to nature," sensible of our true defects.

THE COURT.

The Levee on Wednesday last brought to a close the formal receptions of her Majesty for the present season.

On Monday Prince Albert went to the rooms of the Royal Society in Somerset-house to inspect the calculating-machine invented by Mr. Scheutz. In the afternoon his Royal Highness, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, went to Epsom, for the purpose of opening the Royal Medical Benevolent College. In the evening the Queen had a dinner party, the company at which included the Duchess of Kent, the French Ambassador, Earl Granville, Lady Alfred Paget, Lord Churchill, the Right Hon. Sir William and Lady Molesworth, General Sir Howard Douglas, and Major-General Wetherall.

On Tuesday the Queen held a Privy Council at Buckingham Palace. Viscount Palmerston, Earl Granville, Sir Charles Wood, and Sir George Grey had audiences of her Majesty. On the same day her Majesty and the Prince Consort honoured Mr. Burford with a visit, in Leicester-square, and viewed his panoramas of Sebastopol and the Battle of the Alma. Prince Albert also honoured Baron Marchetti with a visit at his studio. In the evening her Majesty and the Prince honoured the Olympic Theatre with their presence.

On Wednesday, after the Levee, her Majesty dined with her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge, at St. James's Palace.

On Thursday the Queen drove in the Parks, and in the evening honoured the Royal Italian Opera with her presence. Lord Alfred Paget has relieved Major-General the Hon. Charles Grey in his duties as the Equerry in Waiting to the Queen.

THE LEVEE.

The Queen held a Levee on Wednesday afternoon in St. James's Palace. Her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert arrived from Buckingham Palace about two o'clock, and were received by the Lord Steward, the Lord Chamberlain, and the Master of the Horse.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge attended the Levee, and entered the Throne-room with her Majesty, who was attended by the Duchess of Sutherland, Mistress of the Robes; Lady Churchill, Lady in Waiting; the Marquis of Breadalbane, Lord Chamberlain; and the other Lords and Ladies of the Royal household.

The Queen wore a train of lilac and silver moiré antique, trimmed with white blonde. The petticoat was white satin, covered with tulle, and was trimmed with lilac and white fringe. Her Majesty wore a diadem of emeralds and diamonds.

The diplomatic circle were first introduced, and several foreigners of distinction were presented to her Majesty.

The following were among the more noticeable presentations in the general circle:—

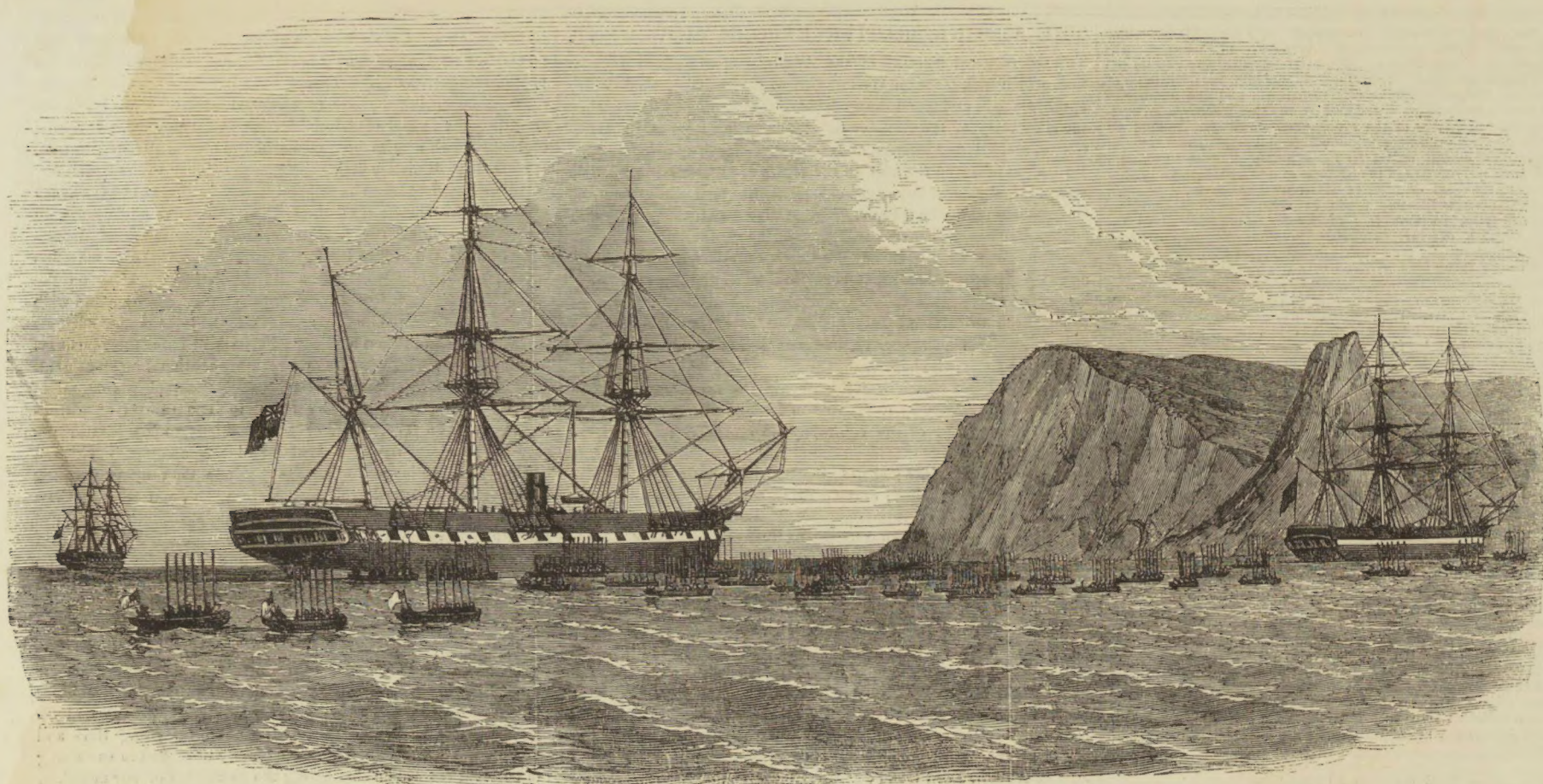
Earl Stanhope, on succeeding to the title, by the Earl of Haddington.
Major-General Viscount Melville, on promotion and appointment to the staff in North Britain, by Viscount Hardinge.
Viscount Boya, on succeeding to the title, by Lord Sudley.
Major-General Chatterton, on appointment to command the Limerick district, by Viscount Hardinge.
Rev. Henry Howarth, on appointment as one of her Majesty's Chaplains in Ordinary, by the Lord Chamberlain.
Captain Keblett, R.N., on return from Arctic service, by Sir C. Wood.
Mr. Thomas Graham, Master of the Mint, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.
Mr. W. B. Inglis, President of the Turks' Islands, by Lord John Russell.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester gave a juvenile ball to the Queen and members of the Royal family yesterday (Friday), at Gloucester-house.

The Marchioness of Breadalbane's ball, on Thursday last, was honoured with the presence of their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge and the Princess Mary, and the Hereditary Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, &c.

The marriage of Lady Henrietta Somerset, eldest unmarried daughter of Emily Duchess of Beaufort, with Mr. John Morant, eldest son of Mr. and Lady Caroline Morant, of Brockenhurst-house, Hants, was celebrated on Tuesday, at St. George's Church, Hanover-square. The ceremony was honoured with the presence of their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge and the Princess Mary, and the Hereditary Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz; and the church was crowded with members of the aristocracy.

BOGUE v. ROUTLEDGE AND Co.—In the Vice-Chancellor's Court, on Tuesday, this case came on for trial, in the shape of a motion for an injunction to restrain the defendants from publishing or selling any further copies of "Every Boy's Book," or anything copied or colourably altered from a work called the "Boy's Own Book," the property of the plaintiff, Mr. Craig and Mr. Reilly were heard in support of the motion. The defendants denied having committed any infringement of the plaintiff's copyright, and stated that they had employed Mr. William Martin, the author or editor of many of the works published under the name of "Peter Farley," and the Rev. J. G. Wood, M.A., the author of the well-known work, the "Illustrated Natural History," and other gentlemen, to write and compile; and Mr. William Harvey, Mr. Harrison Weir, and Messrs. Dalziel to illustrate the same, at a cost of upwards of £1000. After the plaintiff's counsel had addressed the Court for more than three hours, Mr. Bacon rose for the defence, but was stopped by the Vice-Chancellor, who said, in delivering his judgment, "That it was impossible for the plaintiff to claim an exclusive right to publish works relating to the games and amusements of boys. The case as to the plaintiff's exclusive right to the contents of his book had completely failed upon the evidence, and his Honour said that it had been proved to his complete satisfaction that the gentlemen employed by the defendants to write 'Every Boy's Book' had honestly bestowed their labour in so doing. It was impossible to say that the Court ought on any sound principle to restrain the defendants until the plaintiff had established his right at law." Mr. Bacon: The order will contain also liberty to apply in case the action is not brought. The Vice-Chancellor: Of course, there will be liberty to apply in case an action is not brought. But the plaintiff is the best judge of his own interest; and I should think that, by some alteration in his title, he might secure to himself all the legal advantages which he may claim from any originality in his work.



FUNERAL OF THE LATE ADMIRAL BOXER.—REMOVAL OF THE REMAINS FROM "THE JASON," IN BALACLAVA HARBOUR.

FUNERAL OF ADMIRAL BOXER.

THE Funeral of Admiral Boxer, which took place on the afternoon of June 5, two days before the capture of the Mamelon and the Quarry, was attended by a large number of officers of both services, who were desirous to testify by their presence the respect in which they held the gallant Admiral. He was buried near the Naval Hospital above Balaklava.

The death of Admiral Boxer following so quickly after that of his nephew, who was serving in his staff, combined with the fact of both having been previously in the enjoyment of robust health, sufficiently point to local causes as the source of the fatal disease which has so rapidly carried off these two officers. To the pernicious influence of a vitiated atmosphere Admiral Boxer's decease is no doubt in a great degree attributable, for, inscrutable as is the disease of cholera in its essence, no one now who has studied the subject hesitates to receive the assertion that its development is favoured by the same circumstances that assist in diffusing typhus and other such pests.

It was the Admiral's boast that he had never taken a dose of medicine in his life; an assertion illustrative of the general vigour of his frame. Though rough in manners, and in appearance and conversation a sailor of the "old school," yet every one knew that he was as honest as he was blunt, and that under the rugged exterior lay a large amount of kindness of disposition. At Quebec, in which port he performed the duties of Harbour-master from the time of his retirement from active service in the Mediterranean, where he so much distinguished himself under Admiral Stopford, until his own promotion to Admiral's rank, he was universally respected, both in his private and public capacity. At Constantinople and at Balaklava he met with difficulties of a complicated and peculiar kind—very different in nature and degree from those of the great port, much

frequented, as it is, of the St Lawrence, and requiring a very different character and temper to grapple with them. Judging from the reports of those who have most intimately mixed with Admiral Boxer of late in business, it would appear that he never spared himself any trouble; on the contrary, that one of his chief faults in administration was his trusting too much to his own personal exertion, and depending too little on that general supervision and direction which more properly belonged to his rank and position.

We are sorry to learn that the widow of Admiral Boxer is suffering from a most dire accumulation of misfortunes. The first of these was the death from cholera of her nephew, at Balaklava. This was followed by the decease, from the same cause, of her husband. The next intelligence she received was to the effect that her house in the country had been burnt to the ground. Scarcely had she been made acquainted with this fact when the failure of Messrs. Strahan's bank deprived her of an amount of not less than £30,000; and, to crown all her misery, she has now a son before Sebastopol who, it is feared, cannot long survive.

PRESENTATION OF MEDALS TO THE 80TH REGIMENT (STAFFORDSHIRE VOLUNTEERS).

THE very interesting ceremony of presenting Medals to the 80th Regiment, to which they were entitled for the campaign in Burmah, took place on Friday week, on Southsea Common, Portsmouth, before a numerous concourse of spectators, mainly composed of the *élite* of the town and neighbourhood. The different regiments in garrison were assembled in companies on the ground, to witness their comrades in arms receiving the reward of their services.

The Medals were arranged on a table placed in the centre of the troops and surrounded principally by ladies.

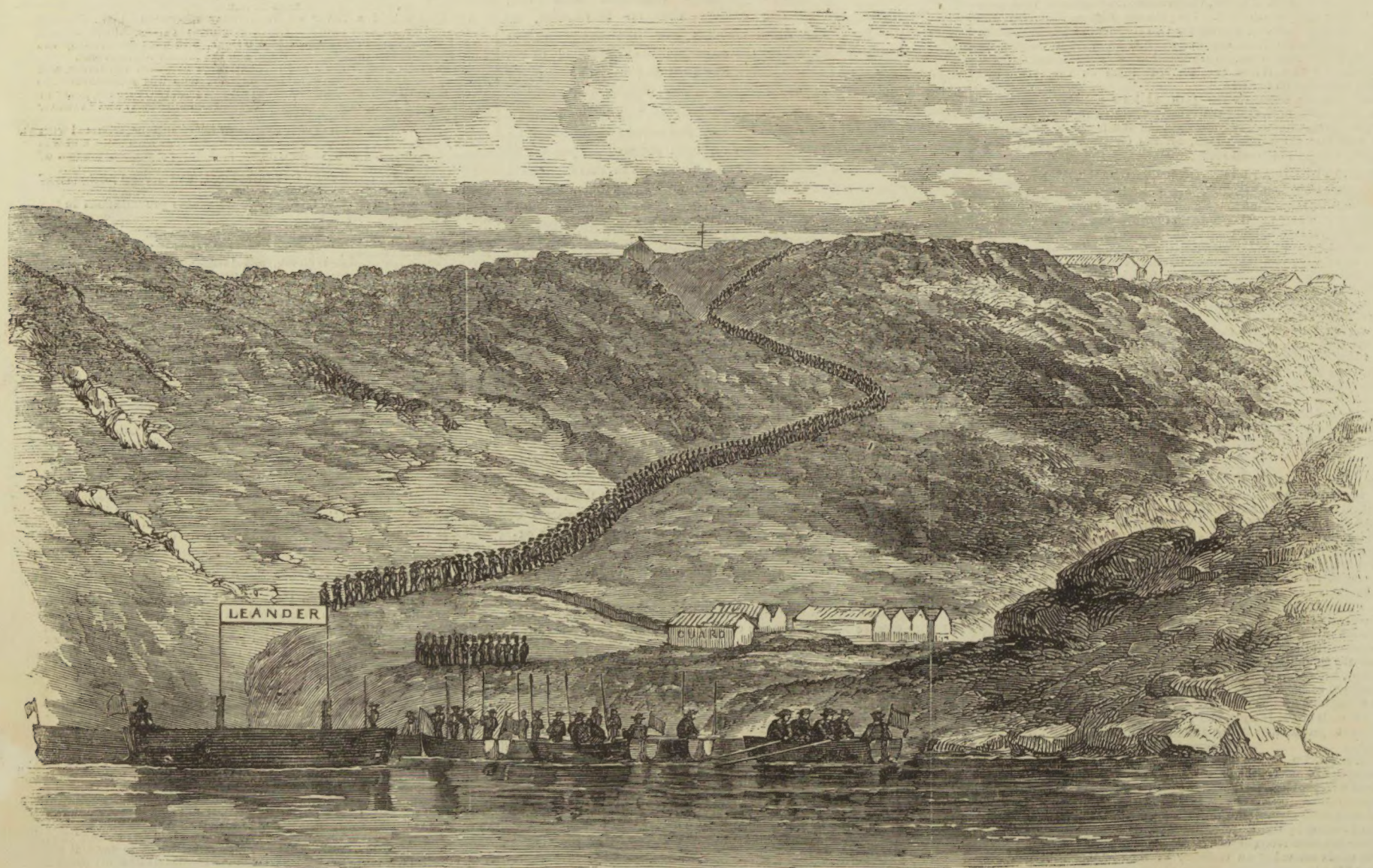
The Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant-General Robbins, presented the Medals to the officers and men; addressing in terms most happy and suitable to the occasion a few words to each of the recipients, as he came to the table.

Lieutenant-General Robbins, who is a distinguished Peninsular and Waterloo hero, wore on his breast his own well-earned medals, and assured the gallant fellows, who appeared to have seen much service, and many of whose breasts were also covered with medals and clasps, "that the Medal which he then presented would add another to the many honours which decked their brows, and that an opportunity would soon be afforded them of meriting another medal."

The Medal has a clasp attached for the capture of "Pegu, where her Majesty's 80th gallantly led the assault." Several of the *decorés* were honoured by having their medals immediately pinned on by their fair friends who graced the scene. A splendid banquet was given by the officers, and many distinguished personages invited to meet Lieutenant-General Robbins, Colonel of the 80th, at dinner, on Friday evening. Among them were General Breton and his Staff, the Mayor of Stafford, Mr. O'Malley Irwin, Mr. Phibbs, &c.

About 300 Medals were given. Among the recipients were:—Colonel Hutchinson; Majors Christie, Ormsby; Captains Hawkes, Hardinge, Smith; Lieutenants Amiel, Frazer, Nunn, Whitehead, Crawford, Batchelor, Mortimer; Paymaster Bodle; Lieutenant and Adjutant Burrows; Assistant-Surgeon Lane.

* On the 4th of June, 1852, Major Ormsby, Lieutenants Amiel and Frazer, with a detachment of the regiment, carried by assault the Pagoda at Frome, under the command of Major Ormsby, and assisted by the 67th Native Infantry, and the sailors of H.M.S. *Fox*, under Captain Tarleton, C.B.



FUNERAL PROCESSION OF THE LATE ADMIRAL BOXER TO THE HEIGHTS ABOVE COSSACK BAY, BALACLAVA.



PRESENTATION OF BURMESE MEDALS TO THE 80TH REGIMENT (STAFFORDSHIRE VOLUNTEERS), ON SOUTHSEA COMMON.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

COLOSSAL CANDELABRA.

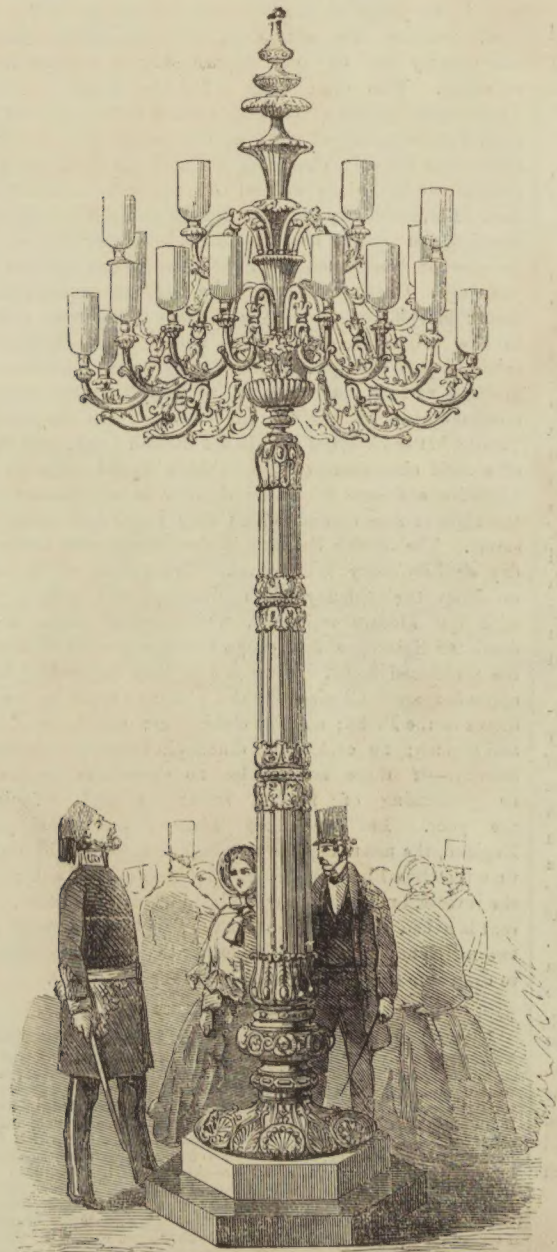
A SET of four colossal Candelabra, magnificent specimens of British manufacture in metal, as well as of tasteful design, is now in course of completion by Messrs. Charles Williams and Co., late Catchpole and Williams,

leaves, shells, and other ornaments, as on the base; and the summit of pillars is surmounted with a vase, richly ornamented. Each Candelabrum is 17½ feet high, and has 24 branches, with ground-glass shades for wax candles—a large supply of which is being manufactured by Messrs. Brecknell and Turner, Haymarket. The diameter space of the branches of each Candelabrum is 86 inches; circumference, 358 inches; diameter of plinth, 64 inches. The weight of each Candelabrum, including the plinth, is 3360 lb.

We understand that Messrs. Charles Williams and Co. have also in progress several magnificent State Bedsteads, in silver, for the Egyptian Court.

PARIS FASHIONS FOR JULY.

We have been very fortunate of late in securing novelties from the private exhibitions at the principal shops of the articles intended for the Great Exhibition. First, of the laces: their depth is very remarkable, and never have toilets displayed such luxury. Simple lace no longer suffices; but the rich patterns are profusely embroidered with the needle. Gagelins exhibited a superb Court Mantle of a new shape, and rounded off at the sides—a very great improvement, that renders the mantle much more convenient to wear. It is white, with white and gold silken embroidery, and trimmed with frizzled white fringe and golden ornaments.



COLOSSAL SILVER CANDELABRUM FOR THE PACHA OF EGYPT.

230, Oxford-street. These Candelabra were ordered by the late Viceroy of Egypt, Abbas Pacha. They are made of white metal very strongly coated with silver. The ornamental base is composed of shells, beautifully chased in relief with Egyptian ornaments; above which rises, in three sections, a column of flat and hollow flutes—each section surmounted with acanthus



PARIS FASHIONS FOR JULY.

The price of this mantle is from fifteen to twenty thousand francs. It is said to be intended for the Empress. Debiles also made a costly display of splendid patterns and materials. The Empress is stated to have selected several of these robes. The first was of a black ground of *gros de Tours*, of a pyramidal pattern, worked in gold flowers in a pyramidal pattern. Next came a robe called "Cleopatra," of a sky-blue *gros de Tours* ground, ornamented with three white and gold silk flounces. Next, a robe *étoile du Nord*, of white silk, completely covered with Indian white silken embroidery; the robe Stradella, *vert celadon* ground, with worked arabesques; and, lastly, the robe Fornarina, of *vert choux*, with white pattern imitating the *point d'Alecons*.

Among the less costly novelties were the grenadines, with black, white, sky-blue, and pearl-grey ground, ornamented with garlands or bouquets of the most brilliant spring flowers. Next, the *barèges*, *gazes de Chambéry*, *mousselines de soie*, which are the stuffs most *recherchés* this year.

Bonnets are not inferior to the robes in luxurious taste: rich laces ornament the front as well as the curtain, and the flowers that encircle the face render them excessively dear. The *paille d'Italie* and *paille de Riz* are almost the only materials worn.

White muslin robes are still worn, covered with embroidery, the richest being placed upon the edges of the flounces; and, if the robes are of simpler pattern, they stream upon the front of the skirt from the corsage down to the bottom, ornamented with ribbons of transparent shades. Many of these robes are also made with two or three tunics.

Ball handkerchiefs are almost entirely of worked on Brussels point lace, with a simple muslin ornament in the middle, in place of the hand bouquet, which is no longer used.

Chapeau de paille de riz, with a tuft of wild red poppy flowers and green leaves, and white lace trimming upon the border of the front. Mantle of silk network, separated by four rows of taffetas ribbon, puffed, and long black silk fringe. This mantle may also be worn of coloured silk, to match the dress. Robe of *mousseline de soie*, printed with three flounces, edged with garlands of flowers. Parasol of light-coloured silk, either blue, rose, or pearl-grey, covered with black lace, a flounce on the edges, and ornamented in the centre with a knot of ribbons, and often with a tuft of lace of the same depth as the flounce.

Chapeau de paille d'Italie, ornamented with flowers. Scarf Mantle of Chantilly lace, with the front corners rounded off. Taffetas robe, with large bands, black and violet, without flounces; high corsage, closed up to the neck, with trimmings arranged like braces, and made with a *ruche* composed of two ribbons of the same shades as the robe.

Chapeau de tulle blanc. Robe à volants en *Chambéry Gauze*. Mantle, with lace body, is very narrow; above is a silk trimming, as well as the upper part of the flounce of the deep lace, which itself alone composes all the mantle; the rich pattern of which should stand out upon a light colour.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, July 1.—4th Sunday after Trinity.—Battle of the Nile, 1798.
MONDAY, 2.—Hungerford Market opened, 1833.
TUESDAY, 3.—Oxford Act and Cambridge commences.
WEDNESDAY, 4.—Translation of St. Martin.
THURSDAY, 5.—Sovereigns first court, 1817.
FRIDAY, 6.—Cambridge Term ends.
SATURDAY, 7.—Fire Insurance due. Oxford Term ends.

HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 7.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
M. 2.41 A. 1.3	M. 3.32 A. 2.5	M. 4.19 A. 3.45	M. 5.9 A. 4.25	M. 6.16 A. 5.28	M. 7.55 A. 7.20	M. 8.20 A. 7.50

REPEAL OF THE COMPULSORY NEWSPAPER-STAMP.

EVERY WEEK

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

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THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1855.

MISADVENTURE has hitherto preceded each of the successful assaults of the Allies upon Sebastopol, and the cases of the Redan and of the Malakoff Tower were to be no exception to the rule. We are reminded by a contemporary that, previously to the carrying the embuscades before the Central Bastion, and previously to the capture of the Mamelon, of the Volhynia, and of the Selinghinsk Redoubts, efforts were made and failure was the result. Then the besiegers returned to the work; reinforced, and with better knowledge of the mode in which their force should be directed, and the defences fell. It is a deplorable thing that a sufficient reconnaissance can, apparently, be made only at the price of much gallant blood; but it may be permitted to us to accept the omen, deduced from what has gone before, and, in the check before the Redan and the Malakoff, to see the promise of certain victory. We have a still higher and better augury in the perseverance and indomitable courage of the armies who have learned to look upon a repulse as a thing to be avenged at the earliest moment.

The first statements that were made—or, it would be fairer to say, the first surmises that were generally risked—as to the extent of our losses, have, happily, been proved greatly to have exaggerated the casualties in question. These are, however, very grave, and, unless they are regarded as part of the terrible price which the nations pay for the victory about to be achieved, it is hard to say by what arguments those who already mourn, and the far larger number whom the arrival of the next despatches will place in mourning, can be brought to own that the lives of those whom they loved have not been sacrificed in vain. After the fearful experiences of the siege, and especially after the lessons which must have been taught by the series of repulses to which we have adverted, it is strange, indeed, that any attack should fail, except from incidents of some unexampled character, and for which even the Generals of France and England could scarcely be prepared. In the absence of more information it would be unjust to attribute blame; but if it should appear that the Allies have been repulsed from works presenting no other obstacles than those which have been previously surmounted, or differing from those only in degree, and if such repulses have been occasioned by the want of ought which precaution and calculation should have supplied, the epitaph on the heroes of the Redan and of the Malakoff will not lack its "one accusing line." But we must await details before its place in the history of the siege can fairly be awarded to the daring feat of those English and French who, on the anniversary of Waterloo, sought, the one noble band to emulate, the other to eclipse, the glories of that day.

It may be well to remember that the first belief was that the slaughter of the 18th June had destroyed or disabled in our own ranks four thousand men. Now we know that this number covers the loss of both armies, and that the total of the English loss, that is, killed and wounded, is 1295. Of these 19 officers and 144 non-commissioned officers and men are all that are hitherto known to have been slain; though, out of the enormous number of wounded, many to whose names are appended the significant words "dangerously" and "severely" have, too probably, already died; and, in round numbers, after deducting the loss of these glorious fellows, the British army is weakened by one thousand men. This is the price at which we have learned the real strength of the Redan. The nation is now feverishly eager to learn to what good use that dearly-bought lesson is being put. It is satisfactory, so far as it goes, to know that the tremendous onslaught of the Allies has greatly astounded the defenders, and that they could not believe themselves safe from another attack, but kept firing at random during the night of the 19th, and next day burned the little faubourg at the bottom of the southern harbour. More to the purpose, we were constructing batteries, with very heavy guns, on such of the works conquered on the 7th as directly menace the great fort. So stands the siege, up to the time of the last transmission of news of importance.

The complete story of a complete triumph—the mastery of the Sea of Azoff—is now before the country; and is, in its entirety, the most satisfactory episode of the war. "A victory is twice itself," says Leonardo, "when the achiever brings home full numbers." In the Azoff, in a few days, nearly 300 vessels, "an immense quantity of stores, and [four months' provision for an army of 100,000 men," have been destroyed or captured; the "dignity" of Russia has received an incurable wound, the waters of the nursery sea have been lighted by all the flames of a circle of blazing cities, and the Allies have the command of the whole eastern coast of the Crimea. *Si sic omnia*. In this quarter the fortunes of the war are all with us.

In the third sea in which British ships are riding, and menacing a foe afraid to fight, except from behind stone walls, the cowardice of that enemy, and the clumsiness of our own vessels, combine to prevent any collision. There is an old chivalric story about a champion who, being warned that his sword was too short to enable him to cope with a better-armed antagonist, replied that it only wanted one step nearer his adversary to make up that disadvantage. The same chivalrous feeling exists on board the Baltic fleet, but it is physically impossible to bring our colossal batteries within reach of the Russians; and whether the wisdom of Government will, at any period during the war, provide Admiral Dundas with the means of doing more than Admiral Napier was permitted to do, has yet to be seen. The last reports upon the subject, and the experiment on the first floating battery that has been launched, are anything but satisfactory. There liest the noblest fleet ever sent from the shores, manned by the best officers and the boldest sailors the country can produce,

The sea-built forts in dreadful order move.

But we have reversed the description of the *Annus Mirabilis*, and Britain has now the "high-raised decks," and "guns of mighty strength," and

The "Russians" hope that with disordered haste
Our deep-cut keels upon the sand may run.

We have only to hope that one of those happy accidents which usually occur in the presence of Nelsons and others of that kind who are ready to avail themselves of such chances may favour Dundas.

And at the least let us hope that he will find or make a way to vengeance for the Hango atrocity. Details on this subject have been received, and we now know that the murder was incomplete. Four only of our sailors and two of the Russians' fellow-subjects were slaughtered, and a similar number were wounded—the remainder, supposed to have been killed, being prisoners. The Governor of Helsingfors has put forth that species of defence which might be expected from a Russian official, namely, double lying; but his pleas contradict each other, and Russia is convicted, out of her own mouth, of committing and vindicating the most brutal outrage of modern times. It is alleged that the flag of truce was not seen. This deliberate falsehood can be contradicted by the evidence of all the survivors of the massacre; but such contradiction is not necessary, for the Governor proceeds to say that the boat was fired on because the Russians had been irritated at hearing that soundings had elsewhere been taken under a flag of truce. The answer is obviously an insolent defiance by men who are contemptuously careless of the inconsistency of their statements. The rejoinder must be made by the guns of the first vessel that can manage to place itself within reach of a Russian fortress—or, better still, must be entrusted to the first body of marines and blue-jackets that can be thrown on shore. It is improbable that such a party will have any prisoners whose release may expose their merciful captors to be brutally murdered. We may add that the story of soundings having been obtained at Kertch by means of the carriage stratagem is flatly contradicted. Nothing of the kind took place; and soundings could have been obtained, without the least difficulty, by day or night. The House of Lords spoke out upon the Hango affair with an energetic indignation which did them honour; and Lord Clarendon stated that explanations had been demanded of Russia, through Denmark. Lord Brougham declared that "if the nation had ever called for blood, it was now." And, if such cry is raised, it is not the cry of frantic rage at the murder of our brothers—it is the stern demand that the claims of our common humanity shall not be slighted, even in the hour of conflict.

HYDE-PARK offered a singular spectacle on Sunday last. We expect that to-morrow will not offer a repetition of it, but that the pedestrians will have exclusive possession, not only of the green sward, but of the paths and carriage-roads. The working classes, aggrieved by the recent legislation of Lord Robert Grosvenor, Mr. Patten, and other ultra-sabbatarian successors of Sir Andrew Agnew, have given a proof of the indomitable spirit of Englishmen, by showing that there shall not, if they can help it, be one

law for the rich in this matter and another for the poor. While disapproving of riotous assemblages for any purposes whatsoever, and disapproving as highly and as earnestly as Lord Robert Grosvenor, or any other man, lay or clerical, who has given utterance to his opinions on the subject, of any desecration of the Sunday by any class of the people, it yet seems to us that the attitude assumed by the working classes on the question is exceedingly natural, and in accordance with the sentiment and feeling which gave birth to the Reformation, and produced in England that great and ever-to-be-blessed amount of religious liberty which we all enjoy. If it be right, as members of Parliament assert, that the poor should not purchase necessary refreshment at all times when they may need it, and that no work whatever should be done on the Sunday, it is not right that carriages should drive in the Park on that day, or that clubhouses should be kept open. Carriage-driving necessitates the labour of cattle (forbidden by the fourth commandment) and the labour of coachmen, and possibly of footmen, also plainly forbidden by the Jewish law. If we are to attempt to make poor people pious by Act of Parliament, rich people must be taught that the Act of Parliament applies to them as well as their inferiors in worldly station. From the manner in which the toiling classes took up the question last Sunday, we should not be in the least degree surprised if they bestow upon the rich who go to their clubs in Pall-mall and St. James's-street to-morrow a taste of the opinion which they expressed to the equestrians in the Park on Sunday last. The legislation which allows one class to frequent houses of public resort (for clubs are nothing more) all day on the Sunday, and prohibits another class, who have no other day for repose and refreshment but that one, from taking, except at some particular, and it may be inconvenient, hour, the sustenance and refreshment which nature requires, or which the sense and feeling of liberty may suggest, cannot but be acknowledged even by Lord Robert Grosvenor to be one-sided and oppressive. And we should also remember that this is a question both of civil and religious liberty. This is a country where, luckily, it is free to dissent. If any body of men think it desirable to keep the Sunday in a Jewish sense, they are at liberty to do so. If Lord Robert Grosvenor thinks it right in a Christian land to adhere to the Sabbatarianism of the Jews; to eat cold victuals, to shave in cold water, to go unshaven, and to dispense with servants altogether on that day; he will do no more than exercise the common right of every Englishman to enjoy his own opinions in matters of religion, and to act upon them. But the liberty which such persons claim they must accord, or they become, instead of free Christians, the persecutors of other people for conscience sake. St. Paul says, with reference to Sabbath observance, "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind;" but nowhere says that a man must be forced to act on the subject from the persuasion of another person's mind. If it be free for Lord Robert Grosvenor to sigh on the Sunday, it should be free for any one else to smile. Besides, even the strictest Sabbatarians—supporting themselves upon the authority of the Divine Word—admit that works of necessity and mercy may be done on the Sunday. But who is to judge of the necessity and the mercy? The poor man, working for six days in the week, alleges that the country air on the seventh day is a necessity of his existence. Who shall deny it? He would be indeed a hard-hearted person who should presume to deny, not the necessity only, but the mercy of allowing the toiling slave of our modern civilisation the only chance of inhaling the fresh air (imbibing gratitude to God along with it) that his hard circumstances allow him. But, strictly speaking, all legislation upon the subject is persecution, and nothing less. It cannot be alleged that the Sunday is less decorously observed in our times than it was even ten or twenty years ago. On the contrary, there has been a marked improvement; and if our amateur lawmakers would have a little faith in the principles of freedom, and content themselves with setting a good example, the Sunday would be still better observed amongst us from year to year, as knowledge and education increased among the people. In no country in the world is the Sunday better observed than in the British Isles; and the friends of a rigid observance of the Sabbath should learn to be more Christian and more tolerant, and allow to others some portion of the right of free opinion which they enjoy and claim for themselves. The Jewish Sabbath is one thing;—the Christian Sunday or Lord's-day is another. The people of England wish to keep the Sunday with decency and piety; but not with the Mosaic strictness, which would stone a man to death for lighting a fire, or gathering a bundle of sticks within the prohibited hours. If we are to have legislation, it must be applied against all classes alike. There should be no carriage-drives in the Parks; no open clubhouses; no labour of coachmen and grooms; no cooking of dinners in sumptuous houses on the Sunday,—if there are to be no excursions to the country, or purchasing of needful sustenance and refreshment, by the poor. Let us have liberty; and the people of England, the most religious people in the world, will prove in due time that true liberty and sincere religion are not antagonistic, but the reverse, and mutually uphold and adorn each other. The present is a bad time to raise such invidious questions as these between rich and poor, and the sooner that Parliament allows them to drop into quiet oblivion the better for all parties.

LATER DEPARTURE OF THE DAY MAIL FOR FRANCE.—GENERAL POST-OFFICE, June, 1855.—On and from the 1st proximo the departure from London of the day mail to France will be postponed from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.; by which arrangement the delay to which the correspondence for France, &c., arriving in London by the day mail from Ireland, Scotland, and the north of England, has hitherto been subjected, will be obviated. The following are the regulations under which letters and newspapers for France, or intended to be forwarded through France, may henceforth be posted in London:—At any of the ordinary receiving-houses, letters, 11.0 a.m.; newspapers, 11.0 a.m. At the branch-offices in Charing-cross, the Borough, and Old Cavendish-street, letters, 11.0 a.m.; newspapers, 11.0 a.m. At the Chief Office, and at the branch-office in Lombard-street, letters, 11.45 a.m.; newspapers, 11.15 a.m. Letters and newspapers for the Mediterranean and India, intended to be sent by the Overland Mails, which are made up in London on the 10th and 26th of each month, as well as letters and newspapers for the British forces in the East, to be sent by the supplementary mail made up on the morning of every Tuesday, may be posted until the hours above mentioned.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.—The Trade and Navigation Returns, published on Thursday, inform us that the articles of British produce exported during the month of May amounted in value to £3,049,246, the sum for the month ending 31st June, 1854, being £3,422,196. For the period from the 5th of January to the 31st May the exports were valued at £3,943,727; and during the five months ending June 5, 1854 (a period longer by five days), at £4,425,689.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS
TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, JUNE 28.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer.		Mean Temperature of the Day.	Departure of Temperature from Average.	Degree of Humidity.	Direction of Wind.	Rain in Inches.
		Highest Reading.	Lowest Reading.					
June 22	30.196	75.6	42.1	58.9	- 3.5	85	N.	0.00
" 23	30.078	68.0	57.0	59.8	- 0.8	89	N.W.	0.00
" 24	30.193	68.7	49.1	56.4	- 4.3	78	N.W.	0.00
" 25	30.125	68.6	47.8	57.1	- 3.8	85	W.	0.00
" 26	30.139	75.0	53.0	61.9	+ 0.9	87	N.W.	0.00
" 27	30.330	78.5	55.0	65.4	+ 4.2	82	N.E.	0.00
" 28	30.253	78.9	49.2	64.2	+ 2.9	83	CALM.	0.00

Note.—The sign — denotes below the average and the sign + above the average. The numbers in the seventh column are calculated on the supposition that the saturation of the air is represented by 100.

The reading of the barometer has varied but little during the week, the lowest reading being 30.01 in., on the 25th; and the highest, 30.33, on the 27th. The mean for the week, at the height of 82 feet above the level of the sea, was 30.170 inches.

The mean temperature of the week was 60.2°—being 0.7° below the average.

The range of temperature during the week was 36.8°, being the difference between the lowest reading, 42.1°, on the 22nd, and the highest, 78.9°, on the 28th.

The mean daily range of temperature during the week was 22.9°. The greatest was 33.0°, on the 22nd; and the least, 11°, on the 23rd.

The weather throughout the week was fine, and there was no rain. Lewisham, June 29, 1855. JAMES GLAISHER.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—Within the week ending June 23 the births of 1751 children were registered within the metropolitan districts; 882 were boys, and 869 girls; the average numbers from the registers of ten years for the twenty-fifth week are 705 boys and 677 girls—so that 268 children were born above the estimated average. Within the same limits of time and space 1075 persons died, numbering 548 males and 527 females. The average rate of mortality, as calculated for the week, was 1015; so that the actual number was sixty in excess. The number of deaths in the three preceding weeks were 1073, 1087, and 999. Within the week the number of deaths by small-pox were 28; measles, 16; scarlatina, 54; hooping-cough, 41; diarrhoea, 25; and typhus, 47. So that scarlatina was the most fatal of this class of disease. Diarrhoea, which only averaged 15 in the last six weeks, rose to 25.

GREAT DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE LONDON SUNDAY-TRADING BILL. A monster demonstration, such as has not occurred in or near the metropolis for some years past, took place on Sunday, in Hyde-park. A few days before, placards had been displayed throughout the metropolis inviting the working classes and others to attend in Hyde-park on Sunday afternoon, to see "how the aristocracy observed the Sabbath." In obedience to this call, several thousand persons had assembled in the Park between two and three o'clock on Sunday. A great number of policemen were distributed throughout the Park, but did not interfere with the free movement of the persons assembled, a large majority of whom appeared to be of the better class of artisans, accompanied, in numberless instances, by their wives and families. The equestrian ride in Rotten-row was totally deserted, but soon after three o'clock a variety of carriages began to make their appearance in the Drive running along the right bank of the Serpentine. The vast crowd at once took up a position on each side of the road, extending from the Achilles Statue to Serpentine-bridge, and as each carriage passed along indulged in loud hissing and groaning, accompanied by deafening cries of "Go to church!" "Why do you allow your servants to work on Sunday?" "Shame on you!" "Down with the Sabbatharians!" "Away with the Sunday Bill!" In one carriage a lady stood up, and held in her hand a prayer-book, but the only effect it had on the crowd was to make them shout out, "Walk, walk, and let your horses rest, and your coachman go to church!" Lord and Lady Wilton, Lady Granville, and several others of the nobility and gentry were obliged to leave their carriages at the demand of the multitude. In the majority of instances the occupants of the carriages did not venture to return down the ride, but went home by another route. The crowd remained until nearly eight o'clock. A great number of the members of the Legislature were present, looking on. It is said that a similar demonstration will be repeated to-morrow. A correspondent of the *Times* writes:—"After all, one cannot wonder at such popular ebullitions and demonstrations—nor can we prevent this ratiocinative process of 'the million'—hasty, harsh, and presumptuous though it may be—when we witness, on one hand, the perpetual attempts of the Legislature to torture the poor into an observance of the Sabbath, and notice, on the other hand, the unfettered enjoyment by the rich of comforts and liberties on the very same day. Thus, for instance, after leaving the Park I called at my club, and, at a time when not a poor wretch in the metropolis might purchase a drop of beer, I obtained for myself whatever liquid refreshment I fancied, and found other gentlemen similarly engaged and similarly privileged. Two minutes afterwards a bishop's carriage, drawn by a pair of well-groomed horses, driven and guarded by coachman and footmen in elegant liveries, and conveying two reverend gentlemen (who might, for aught I know, have this very day preached from the text 'Thou shalt keep holy the Sabbath-day'), dashed by the door of the club, and I really could not help feeling that, after all, the Park demonstration was neither unaccountable nor unnatural, seeing that both Sunday trading and Sunday labour are practised with impunity by the Bishops themselves, and that Lord Robert Grosvenor's bill does not contain a clause which will, in the remotest degree, interfere with the Sabbath enjoyments of the rich."

ANNIVERSARY OF HER MAJESTY'S CORONATION.—Thursday last being the anniversary of her Majesty's coronation, the usual display of flags, ringing of bells, and other loyal demonstrations took place throughout the metropolis.

CITY ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL, HATTON-GARDEN.—A *fête champêtre*, under most distinguished patronage, took place in the beautiful grounds of St. Margaret's, Isleworth, near Richmond, on Wednesday, in aid of the funds of the above institution, founded for the gratuitous medical and surgical treatment of poor persons afflicted with clubfoot and other deformities.

VISIT OF THE ROYAL CHILDREN TO THE ROYAL PANOPTICON.—Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, the Princess Alice, the Princess Helena, and the Princess Louise, attended by their suite, paid a visit to the Royal Panopticon, Leicester-square, on Wednesday evening, between the hours of public exhibition.

HYDE-PARK COLLEGE.—The second annual meeting of this College took place on Wednesday last, before a large and influential attendance of the neighbourhood. The report, which was read by the secretary, stated that the number of pupils had been very encouraging, and the funds were in such a position as to warrant the repayment of a portion of the preliminary fund, and the establishment of a guarantee fund. Several admirable speeches were made by the gentlemen interested in the College.

STRAHAN, PAUL, AND BATES.—The general impression seems to be that they will escape all consequences from the criminal charge against them, owing to the technicalities of the Act of Parliament under which they have been arraigned. This result, however, is not at present quite certain. Should it occur, the only authority to take cognisance of their offences will be the Court of Bankruptcy. The commissioners have power to refuse a certificate to a bankrupt who has contracted debts by fraud, and the effect of the refusal entitles any creditor to cause the bankrupt to be arrested and imprisoned. He cannot then obtain his discharge under a year except by order of the Court. The measures on the part of Strahan, Paul, and Co. are considered to have been conducted with great art, the inference being that they committed a voluntary act of bankruptcy in order to get proceedings instituted by a friendly creditor, and with the view to make the disclosure which should exempt them from the criminal penalties due to their conduct.—*The Times* (City Article).

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN SHOREDITCH.—Between the hours of one and two o'clock on Thursday morning a most extensive fire took place on the premises of Mr. W. O. Marchant, cabinet-maker, Curtain-road, Shoreditch, whereby property to the extent of upwards of £10,000 was destroyed. The premises in question were very commodious, and were filled with cabinet-work of a costly description. The flames were not perceived until they shot forth in a huge body, encircling the greater portion of the extensive works. The engines speedily got to work, but in spite of the exertions of the firemen the flames spread, and caught the premises of Mr. G. Newton, confectioner, which were severely damaged by fire, and six houses under repair, belonging to Mr. J. Smith, Worship-street, were considerably damaged by fire. The cause of the calamity is at present unknown.

THE CONSERVATIVE LAND SOCIETY.—A special general meeting was held at Exeter-hall, on Wednesday; Viscount Ranelagh presided. The noble chairman read the report, which stated, as evidence of onward progress, increased investments in land, and extension of building on the allotted estates. The whole of the Old Ford, Rextford, Alford, and a considerable part of the Malvern estates, had been sold. The sale of land for the quarter amounted to £6427 10s., making a total since the commencement of the society of £109,111 10s. The Hounslow and the first and second portions of the Brighton estate would be allotted under novel and advantageous circumstances, on the 19th of July. The report adverted to the approaching proceedings in the Registration Courts, which would be conducted by the society for its members as formerly, free of expense. The report was adopted by acclamation, and a vote of thanks to the noble chairman was passed.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

MADAME LAVALETTE.

EMILIA LOUISA DE BEAUHARNAIS, Countess de Lavalette, who, familiarly known as Madame Lavalette, established a name memorable for ever in the annals of female heroism died in Paris on the 18th inst. It is not said whether she ever recovered from the alienation of mind consequent on the sufferings she endured for her act of devotion; but, at any rate, her glory has never been obscured, and is as brilliant now, at the time of her demise, as when what she did first won universal acclaim.

The Countess de Lavalette was a near relative of the present Emperor of the French, being the first cousin of his mother, the Queen Hortense. She was the daughter of Queen Hortense's father's elder brother Francis, Marquis de Beauharnais, who died in 1846, leaving a daughter by each of his marriages: the younger of these daughters is the Chanoinesse and Marchioness Hortense, now Madame de Laity; and the elder was the heroine, the subject of this notice.

In accordance with the expressed wish of Napoleon, then First Consul, Emilia Louisa de Beauharnais, after receiving her education at the justly-celebrated seminary of Madame Campan, was married in 1802 to Bonaparte's favourite Aide-de-Camp, Antony Marie Chamant Lavalette. Her husband was a remarkable man. He had shared with acknowledged ability in much of the toil and trials of his great master, to whom he was warmly attached. His life, indeed, seemed a charmed one. He once was shipwrecked, and had a wonderful escape from drowning, off the coast of Egypt: he remained unscathed during the six weeks' plague in Alexandria and that passed for a miracle; but the last preservation of his life, the act of his wife, was far more marvellous still. When Napoleon became Emperor he made Lavalette a Count, and appointed him Director-General of Posts. This office he held when Napoleon abdicated in 1814, and he then gave in his adhesion to the restored dynasty of the Bourbons—most probably, it is supposed, that he might the better serve the cause of the Imperial exile. The moment the news of the return from Elba took effect in Paris, Lavalette forcibly reinstated himself in his directorship of Posts, which had been temporarily occupied by the Count de Ferrand, and he here made use of his thus-acquired power to stop the Royal proclamations, so as to secure the utter discomfiture of the King. For this act Lavalette, after the second restoration, was tried, and capitally convicted. He was sentenced to be guillotined, and his doom appeared inevitable. The Government was inexorable to all applications, and they were many, to spare his life. His wife threw herself at the feet of Louis XVIII.; but the Monarch, himself a man of humanity, could only regret that his advisers insisted on a severe example. The execution was fixed for the 21st December, 1815. The night before, Lavalette escaped from his dungeon in the clothes of his wife, leaving her there in his stead. The details of her almost superhuman skill, intelligence, and presence of mind, in the conduct of this affair, form a surprising narrative—too long for insertion here, but the reader may be referred for it to "Chambers' Miscellany;" and for further incidents to the recent edition of "The Romance of the Aristocracy." Lavalette, once out of prison, lay concealed in a curious hiding-place, where his enemies never thought of looking for him—viz., in a chamber of the very office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. There, through the aid of his friend the cashier, he rested secure for nearly three weeks, and baffled the police completely. He owed his final preservation to the generous gallantry of three English gentlemen—Sir Robert Wilson, Captain Hutchinson (since Earl of Donoughmore), and Mr. Michael Bruce. They took him from his precarious place of refuge, and conducted him, in the disguise of an English officer, across the frontier into Belgium. For this they were tried in Paris, and sentenced to the minimum of punishment accorded to the offence—three months' imprisonment—and underwent it amid general applause. Lavalette, after an exile of six years, was pardoned by Louis XVIII., and returned to France: he died there in 1830. His heroic wife fared the worst. The cruel prosecution and the six weeks' severe imprisonment to which the Government, in its wrath, subjected her to for having aided him, proved too much for her; the agony, bodily and mental, she endured (she was kept uncertain of her husband's safety) laid the foundation of complaints which afterwards unsettled her reason. Her daughter Josephine, and Lavalette himself, when he got back, did all that could lie in human power to administer comfort and alleviation to her in her unhappy condition. Lavalette's letters on the subject display intense feeling and sorrow. When he died, the Countess continued under the devoted care of her daughter; but the recompense for her great example of a wife's attachment was not to be in this life: she now passes to her reward, leaving behind her a strange history, the saddest and yet the brightest amid all the recorded vicissitudes of the Imperial family of France.

E. ADDENBROOKE ADDENBROOKE, ESQ.

EDWARD ADDENBROOKE ADDENBROOKE, Esq., of Kingswinford, county Stafford, was the representative of an ancient Staffordshire family formerly seated in Wollaston-hall, in that county, being son of the late John Addenbrooke Addenbrooke, Esq., of Wollaston-hall, High Sheriff for Worcestershire in 1798 (whose patronymic was Homfray), by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Michael Grazebrook, Esq., of Audnam, and grandson of John Homfray, Esq., of Wollaston-hall, by Mary his wife, daughter of the Rev. Jeremiah Addenbrooke, M.A., and heir of his uncle, the Very Rev. John Addenbrooke, D.D., Dean of Lichfield. The family of Homfray descends immediately from Francis Homfray, Esq., of Aston, county York, who was supposed to have been killed at the siege of Clonmel, under Cromwell. The late Sir Jeremiah Homfray, Kt., of Llandaff-house, High Sheriff for Glamorganshire in 1808, was the representative of one branch of this family.

Mr. Addenbrooke, the subject of this notice, married Emma, third daughter of the late John Pidcock, Esq., of the Platts, Staffordshire, J. P. and D. L. for that county, by whom he leaves a large family to deplore his death, which occurred at his residence, Kingswinford, on the 16th ult.

THOMAS GEORGE WARRINGTON CAREW, ESQ.

THIS gentleman, a magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for Somerset, died at his seat, Crowcombe Court, Somerset, on the 21st ult., in his 59th year. Mr. Carew succeeded to the old family estates of Carew Castle, Pembroke, and Crowcombe Court, Somerset, on the death of his mother, an heiress of the family of Carew, in this year 1852. He was the eldest son of George Henry Warrington, Esq., who assumed the name of Carew in the year 1811; and from his father he inherited the Warrington family state of Pentreant Hall, Salop. The Carews are one of the few families now remaining who can trace an uninterrupted descent from the Anglo-Saxon period. Mr. Carew married, in 1827, Elizabeth Hannah, only daughter of the late John Reed Clarke, Esq., of Farnham-house, Somerset; and by this lady he leaves three sons—the eldest of whom, George Henry Warrington Carew, Esq., late a Captain in the 1st King's Dragoon Guards, now succeeds to all the family estates.

ERRATUM IN OBITUARY OF LAST WEEK.—Sir George Rose, it should have been stated, had issue (with several other children, most of whom died before their father), Major-General Rose, late Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, and now Commissioner with the French Army in the Crimea, William Rose, Esq., Deputy Clerk of the Parliaments, and the present Countess of Morton.

* * A War Obituary of the Officers who fell on the 18th will be given next week.

WILLS AND PERSONALTY.—The will of the Right Hon. George Lord Byron Kenyon has been proved in England, personally £18,000; Lieut.-General Sir George Charles d'Aguilar, K.C.B., £18,000; Augustus Keppel Gifford, Esq., £20,000; William Devonshire Saul, wine merchant, London, £20,000; Samuel Berger, colour manufacturer, London, £180,000. The private personal property of the late Bennett Gosling, Esq., has been estimated for probate duty at £350,000. Mr. Arthur Guinness, the eminent brewer, who died recently at the age of eighty-eight, is stated to have left upwards of half a million sterling.

The Duke of Northumberland laid the foundation-stone of a new church at Isleworth on Thursday morning, with the usual ceremonies.

TESTIMONIALS.—To the Rev. George Jannings, on his retirement from the curacy of Bishop Wearmouth, a purse containing above £70. To the Rev. H. F. Ralph, curate of Knutsford, a silver inkstand, with a suitable inscription, by his congregation.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from page 653.)

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

INCREASE OF PAY TO THE ARMY.

LORD PANMURE, in reply to the Duke of Richmond, said that in the construction of the new barracks he was fully alive to the importance of affording to the married soldier convenient and decent accommodation. He was, however, of opinion that the Army would be much improved by the absence of women altogether; and that the young soldier should be taught to do that for himself which was on ordinary occasions performed by women. He did not think that a young soldier of eighteen years of age should be permitted to marry until he had passed through his ten years' service. In respect to the subject of recruiting, instead of increasing the bounty, which was at first proposed, her Majesty's Government had it in contemplation to grant an additional shilling a day to all soldiers engaged in field operations; such shilling not to be paid them at once, but to be placed to their credit in the savings-banks, and there left to accumulate. In the event of their death such money to be paid to their nearest surviving relatives. But if they survived it was to be paid to them, in addition to the pension to which, after a certain term of service, they would be entitled.

The Assizes and Sessions Bill passed through Committee, as did also the Spirits (Ireland) Act Amendment Bill, the Accidents on Railways Bill, and the National Gallery, &c. (Dublin), Bill.

The Woolmer Forest Bill was read a second time.

The Militia (No. 2) Bill was read a third time, and passed.

The Friendly Societies Bill was reported, with amendments.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

In the morning sitting, the House in Committee disposed of several clauses in the Local Management (Metropolis) Bill.

In the evening sitting, Lord PALMERSTON, in reply to Mr. T. Chambers, said that the correspondence with the Portuguese Government on the subject of the claims of Yulle, Shortbridge, and Co., for breach of treaty, had not yet been brought to a conclusion.

TENANTS' IMPROVEMENTS COMPENSATION (IRELAND) BILL.

The House having gone into Committee upon this bill, Lord SEYMOUR moved that the Chairman report progress, with the view of discharging the order altogether, as he saw no probability of the measure being passed in the present Session.

After some conversation, Serjeant SHEE said he considered the amendments of the Government so mischievous, he was of opinion that the bill was not worth having.

The Committee having divided, Lord Seymour's motion was negatived by a majority of 97 to 75.

The discussion of the clauses was then proceeded with; but little progress was made in the bill.

About midnight the Chairman reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

Several bills upon the paper were then advanced a stage.

WINDSOR POULTRY SHOW.

THE first Exhibition of Poultry took place at Windsor this week under Royal and other very distinguished patronage; and, but for the inconvenient site selected for the tents, and some want of experience in the construction of the Poultry pens—errors which may be excused on a first attempt—the exhibition would have been much more attractive. It is, however, understood that another year better arrangements will be made, and the gathering will take place in the Home park.

Upwards of £150 was distributed in prizes; and a handsome silver cup, value ten guineas, was awarded to H. D. Davies, Esq., of Spring-grove-house, Hounslow, the exhibitor of the best collection of adult birds, and also the most successful competitor in the adult classes. Amongst the competitors for prizes we noticed H.R.H. Prince Albert, and a long list of the nobility and gentry.

THE CAPTURE OF YENIKALE.

THE taking of this place was a very brief affair. The instant the Russians deserted Pavlovskaja, the *Snake*, in the most dashing manner, made a rush after one of the Russian steamers past the opening of the Bay of Kerch up to Yenikale. Captain McKillop pushed his vessel right across bank, shoals, and narrows after his prey. A large and heavily-armed schooner, sailing beautifully, came bowling down from Yenikale to aid her consort, and at the same time several merchant vessels slipped from the Bay of Kerch and tried to run up to the Sea of Azoff, but the *Snake* had her eyes wide open, and gave them a gun here and there, which soon induced them to abandon the attempt. As she went up to Yenikale she got under the fire of the batteries on the shore and on the second sandbank, but she danced in among the Russian vessels, making splendid use of her long guns and holding her own against ships, gun-boats, floating batteries, shore forts, and block-houses till her consorts went to her assistance, and soon made the place too hot for the enemy. They blew up their magazines and spiked their guns at Yenikale that evening, and the next morning the batteries on the spit were abandoned by the enemy after firing a few shots. The *Snake* was only hit once; a round shot went through her, but no one was hurt. None of the other vessels received any injury. The schooner and steamer were driven on shore, and were burnt by the enemy.

From Kerch to Yenikale the distance is five miles and a half. Yenikale derives its importance from its position on a promontory close to the entrance of the Sea of Azoff, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Kerch. Another of the singular banks to be found in this part of the world, shooting from the north-eastern extremity of the Taman Peninsula, runs through the sea in a southerly and westerly direction for seven miles and a half towards Yenikale, and contracts the strait to the breadth of a mile and three quarters, just ere it opens into the Sea of Azoff. On this bank, which is full of salt-water marshes, and is two or three miles broad in some places, the Russians had a strong battery, commanding the ferry station, armed with long and heavy 36-pounders, and a number of Government buildings of a mean description, and there were great numbers of fishing-huts and curing-sheds also upon it. The principal battery at Yenikale crossed fire with the fort on the sandbank, which is called Sayernaia, and it was thought that a stout resistance would have been offered to our gun-boats, but the batteries on land were abandoned and the magazines blown up by the enemy as soon as the Allied fleet made its appearance; the battery on the sandbank followed the example next morning, and Yenikale was surrendered without a blow. The town consists of two parts—one suburb of houses close to the water's edge, and commanded by a ridge of high land rising gradually from the sea. The church, which is a handsome building in the Byzantine style, stands on the hillside, in the midst of this suburb. The other part consists of the Fort, which is formed by a quadrangular rampart, armed at the angles with bastions and small turrets. Each side of the square is about a quarter of a mile long. The side parallel to the sea-wall is on the top of the ridge into which the ground rises gradually from the sea, and the sea-wall itself has its base a broad quay by the water's edge. The ridge once gained the country lies before one in a spacious plateau, with conical mounds and tumuli, forming natural advanced posts for videttes in the distance. On the land side the ramparts are provided with embrasures, and are crenellated for musketry the walls, though very old, are of great solidity, and are tolerably well preserved. Inside the inclosure are the hospital, the Government-house, the barracks, the batteries, and the stores and magazines. One of these magazines, which was blown up, completely destroyed about 200 feet of the curtain of the work on the land side. There are marks of ancient intrenchments outside the walls, and the moats, ditches, covered ways, &c. are still well defined.

(From our own Correspondent.)

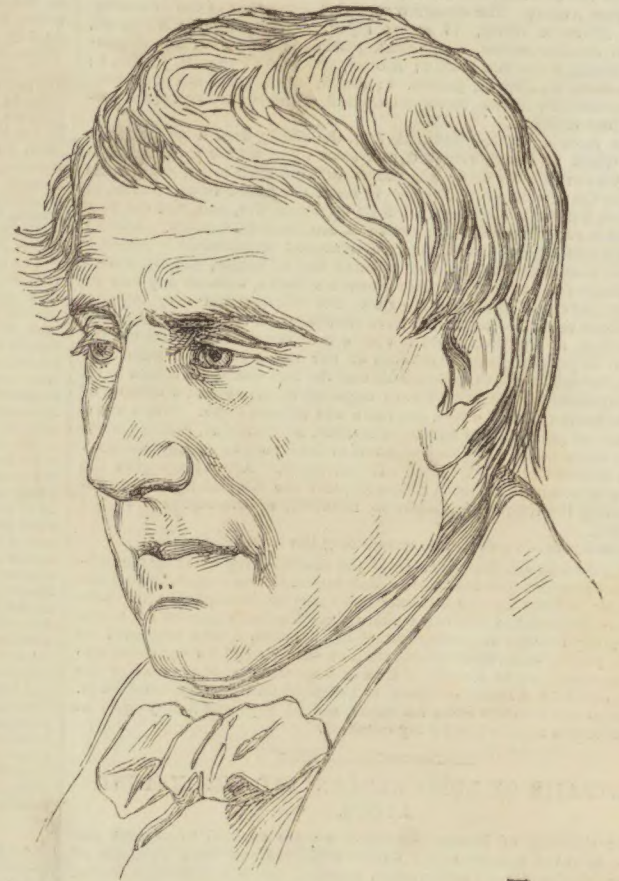
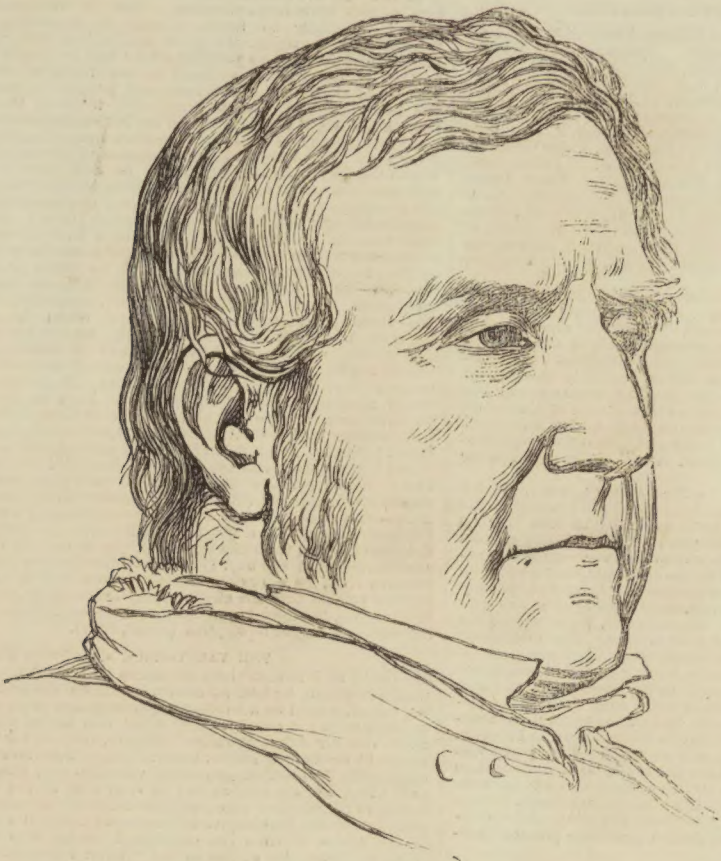
In my last I wrote that our gun-boats had done good service in the Sea of Azoff. The number of shipping and craft taken or destroyed is said now to amount to 500; and Taganrog, a strong fortress about fifteen miles from the river Don, laid in ruins. At Taganrog, in the reign of Peter the Great, and as late as Catherine II., the Russians had a fleet of flat-bottomed line-of-battle ships; but since its foundation the water has diminished in depth about three feet. On the 12th inst. orders were received for the expedition to return to Balaklava.

The Russians have destroyed Anapa.

On Wednesday last 1500 women from Kerch were sent across the Sea of Azoff by our Admiral, they having expressed great fear of the Turks; between 3000 or 4000 of whom, in conjunction with the 71st Highlanders, will remain to defend Yenikale. The poor inhabitants have had, I am sorry to say, good grounds for their fear; as the Turks have committed various excesses, several of whom have been punished by death.



THE LANDING OF THE TURKS AT YENIKALE.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)



FIELD-MARSHAL LORD RAGLAN, (COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE CRIMEA. FROM A DRAWING BY ARMITAGE.—SEE NEXT PAGE.)

SIR EDMUND LYONS, ADMIRAL COMMANDING-IN-CHIEF OF THE BRITISH NAVY.—FROM A DRAWING BY ARMITAGE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



THE 71ST REGIMENT AND TURKS THROWING UP INTRENCHMENTS AT YENIKALE.—(SEE PAGE 647.)



BOMBARDMENT OF FORT ARABAT BY THE SEA OF AZOFF SQUADRON.—EXPLOSION OF THE MAGAZINE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

BOMBARDMENT OF FORT ARABAT.

It was on the afternoon of the 25th ult. that the squadron of light steamers entered the Sea of Azoff, and on the morning of the 28th they came in sight of Fort Arabat. The squadron consisted altogether of the following vessels:—*Miranda*, screw, 15 guns; *Viper*, screw gun-boat; *Stromboli*, paddle, 6; *Squalon*, screw, 8; *Medina*, paddle, 4; *Wrangler*, screw gun-boat, 2; *Beagle*, screw gun-boat, 2; *Recruit*, paddle, 6; *Vesuvius*, paddle, 6; *Carlew*, screw, 8; *Ardent*, paddle, 4; *Snake*, screw gun-boat, 2; *Lynx*, screw gun-boat, 2; *Arrow*, screw gun-boat, 2. The French squadron consisted of four steamers.

On the morning of the 28th, at 7.30, the *Snake* fired a gun at Fort Arabat, which was soon returned, and soon after all the ships were engaged. On our side the firing was good—shot and shell were sent into the fort, while the Russians were unable to reach the Allied vessels; most of their shots fell short, but they still kept up a good fire, and, had the fleet been within range, would have caused it considerable damage. At 8.15 their magazine exploded, and the fire slackened considerably. About 9 the Allied fleet ceased firing, and steamed out of action, having caused some damage and made the enemy show his forces, without any loss on our part, save one shot which struck the *Medina*, and very slightly wounded one man. No good could have resulted from taking the ships into closer action, as the fort could not have been destroyed without the co-operation of a land force, and some of our steamers might have been crippled, for which even the destruction of the fort would have been but a poor compensation. Captain Lyons expected to have found a number of vessels at anchor near the fort, but there was not one there. There was a large store of grain on the tongue of Arabat, near the fort, but any boats going on shore would have been exposed to fire; and, as saving time conduces to success in this sea, it was left uninjured. After the action the four French steamers returned to Kertch, and the English squadron proceeded along the tongue of Arabat to Genitchi, at the entrance to the Putrid Sea.

Captain Lyons, in a despatch, announcing the capture, says:—

The Commanders of the vessels employed deserve every credit for the skilful manner in which they manœuvred their vessels in a very strong breeze and shoal water, without a single accident; and I may be permitted to say none were more distinguished than our gallant allies. The large garrison at Arabat rendering any attempt at landing out of the question, I now proceeded for Genitchi, parting with regret from Captain de Sédaiges and his squadron, who left at the same time for Kertch. I take this opportunity of mentioning the efficient, cordial, and hearty co-operation I received on every occasion from M. de Sédaiges and the ships under his orders, and my hope that it may again be my good fortune to have him for my colleague.

PORTRAITS OF LORD RAGLAN AND SIR EDMUND LYONS.

By the courtesy of Messrs. Gambart we are enabled to present our readers with the accompanying *facsimile* Engravings from Portraits of the above distinguished Commanders, sketched by Mr. Armitage during their present campaign. At home these presentments of the two master-minds who are commanding our forces, by land and sea, will be regarded with peculiar interest; they are characteristic of the firmness and energy which are indispensable to their glorious termination of the mighty struggle in which we are now engaged.

The reader will find in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, No. 606, a Memoir of the Life and Services of Lord Raglan; and, in No. 691, of Sir Edmund Lyons.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE IN INDIA.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

65, Cornhill, June 28, 1855.

With reference to the announcement of your intention to publish an unstamped Supplement with each number of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, we beg to invite your attention to a circumstance connected therewith of considerable importance to your Subscribers in the interior of India.

The ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, with the Supplement, will exceed twelve tolas (about five ounces) in weight, which is the limit allowed for the transmission of newspapers by Letter Dāk, as we understand the Act for the Regulation of the Indian Post-office; which came into operation last year; consequently, until some alteration is made in these regulations, the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS will be forwarded by Dāk Bhangy (parcel post), and thus delayed for some days or even weeks beyond the period at which newspapers of a less weight are received.

As it is impossible for us to communicate with each of our constituents in India receiving the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS through our agency, and as the postal regulations of India are not generally known in this country, we would suggest that you should insert a notification on this subject in your next publication, in order to explain to your Indian Subscribers the delay which will probably occur in the receipt of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS by them.—We are, dear Sir, your faithful and obedient servants,

SMITH, ELDER, and Co.

NEWSPAPERS TO CANADA.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

Permit me to earnestly call your attention to the circular issued yesterday by the Post-office with reference to the transmission of newspapers from the United Kingdom to British Colonies and foreign States.

Hitherto, as the public is well aware, stamped newspapers could be transmitted free between Great Britain and her Colonies, with the exception of Canada, upon each newspaper for which there has been a rate, for transit through the United States, of 1d. currency (about a fifth less than 1d. sterling), paid at destination; but by the new circular every British Colony will henceforth be subjected to a postal rate, in addition to the newspaper-stamp, of 1d. for each newspaper posted in Great Britain, and in the case of Canada to a postal rate of 2d.

At present the cost per annum of receiving the *Times* in this last-named colony varies, according to the arrangement made with the London news-vender, from £4 19s. 8d. per annum to £8 17s. 8d., which latter sum would be the full price of each publication, with the transit penny currency added; but by the new circular £5 5s. must be added, or about 50 per cent on the present average price of your journal. In the case of stamped newspapers published for 4d. the Post-office is about to impose a new tax of 50 per cent upon those sent to Canada, and of 25 per cent on those sent to all other British Colonies; and on 3d. stamped papers the proportion of the new tax will be 66½ per cent for Canada, and 33½ for all other Colonies.

It should be understood that while British possessions are to be subjected, under the guise of a postal rate, to this new taxation, not the slightest change is to be made in the postal rates chargeable upon newspapers forwarded to foreign countries, for they can be sent to France, Belgium, Prussia, &c., free, as heretofore.

It is clear that, unless energetic steps be at once taken, the Post-office will endeavour to reduce the loss of revenue to be occasioned by the partial remission of the Newspaper-stamp Duty in this country by the imposition of a tax of which the British Post-office revenue will alone get the benefit, for the circular states that the "rates must, in all cases, be prepaid, otherwise the newspapers cannot be sent."

In fact, while, under pressure, newspaper free trade is extended in one part of her Majesty's dominions, it is counteracted by discreditable restrictions as regards all others, and this, too, at the very time that England's most important colony has passed a law ensuring the free transmission of its unstamped newspapers throughout its entire extent.

Having some experience of colonial life, there is no difficulty in my predicting the displeasure that will be felt in every colony on the receipt of the circular, and a few weeks will certainly bring back to England indignant remonstrances from every one of them.

You will yourself, no doubt, deal with that part of the circular by which an additional annual registration fee is to be paid by each newspaper claiming the privilege of transmission abroad.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,
London, June 27. CUSACK P. RONEY.

[NOTE OF THE EDITOR.—With reference to the letter of Messrs. Smith and Elder, we hope the Indian Government will be induced to relax its postal regulations in favour of the transmission of Newspapers, and thereby set a good example to the authorities at home. The officials at St. Martin's-le-Grand, as is well known, look with no favour upon newspapers sent by post, and would rather not be encumbered with the duty of forwarding them. They have taken advantage of the recent changes in the law—changes which will no doubt lead to a great increase in the number of newspapers—to impose an additional postage on newspapers for Australia and several other Colonies. The Government of Canada is somewhat wiser, as Sir Cusack Roney informs us; for, looking at newspapers as the best instructors of the people, it has, within the last two months and taken—without imposing a stamp-duty—to convey the Canadian newspapers free to every part of the Colony. We have yet some things to learn, even from our Colonies.]

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM ASSOCIATION.
MEETING AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

The second meeting of the Administrative Reform Association was held on Wednesday evening in Drury-lane Theatre. Amongst those present were—Messrs. Charles Dickens, W. Scholefield, M.P.; F. Mowatt, M.P.; Apsley Pellatt, M.P.; A. J. Otway, M.P.; J. P. Murrugh, M.P.; J. A. Wise, M.P.; Major Reed, M.P.; A. H. Layard, M.P.; W. Tite, M.P.; J. P. Gassiot, W. J. Hall, G. Bishop, jun., J. Ingram Travers, R. Ogilby, W. Lister, B. Wilson, J. B. Allan, W. Cumming, G. Moore, F. Bennock, Donald Nicoll, J. P. Foster, T. Pollock, W. Edgar, jun., Peter Graham, George Stagg, Forster Graham, Rev. Robert Walpole, J. C. Datchburn, F. Oetzmann, C. George, J. A. Nicholas, J. Whitmore, R. Michell, Jacob Bell, Joseph Harvey, J. Fennings, R. L. Fennings, W. S. Burton, J. G. J. Greene, J. W. Marshall, John Wade, John Vaux, of Harwich; John Norton, of Lincoln; Henry Raiton, of Snitliffgarth; H. E. Hoole, of Sheffield; W. Burnley Hume, F. L. Slous, A. S. Ayrton, Johnstone Neale, Col. Inigo Jones, M. J. Higgins, Travers Buxton, B. L. Smith, Dr. Bell, Dr. Price, &c., &c.

Mr. Morley, the President of the Association, occupied the chair. The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said they could do nothing without the aid of the constituencies (Cheers). A different class of men was wanted in the House of Commons (Cheers). Until the country placed men there who would not care about blackballing at the clubs—men who could stand on the floor of the House perfectly upright—it would never get anything essential. It might get large concessions; but to bring the Government into responsibility to the House of Commons they must have men who would take up the position which he recommended, and act upon it to the letter (Cheers). Unless the large constituencies sent faithful men to Parliament, it was no use to ask for Administrative Reform.

Mr. C. Dickens, on presenting himself to the meeting, was received with loud and protracted cheering. He said he could not better express his sense of the kind reception that had been awarded to him by that great assemblage than by promising to compress what he should address to it within the closest possible limits. It was more than eighteen hundred years since there was a set of men who thought that they should be heard for "much speaking." As they had profited by the privilege very much since that time, and, as he observed, they flourished at the present moment to a surprising extent about Westminster, he would do his best to avoid adding to the number of that prolific race. The noble Lord at the head of the Government, when he wondered in Parliament about a week ago that Mr. Layard did not blush for having stated in that place what the whole country knew perfectly well to be true—(Cheers)—and what no one could by possibility better know to be true than those distinguished supporters of the noble Lord who had the advantage of hearing him and cheering him night after night when he first became Premier, namely, that he did constantly joke at a time when this country was plunged in deep distress and disgrace—when the noble Lord wondered so much that the man of this age who had, by his earnest and adventurous spirit, done the most to distinguish himself and it, did not blush for the tremendous audacity of having so come "between the wind and his nobility," his Lordship finished with an airy period about the private theatricals at Drury-lane Theatre.

DOWNING-STREET THEATRICALS.

He (Mr. Dickens) had some slight acquaintance with theatricals, both private and public, and he would accept the figure of the noble Lord. He would not say that, if he wanted to form a company of her Majesty's servants, he thought he should know where to lay his hand on the "comic old gentleman"—(Loud laughter)—nor that, if he wanted to get up a pantomime efficiently, he should know to what establishment to go for tricks and changes, as also for a considerable troop of supernumeraries, to trip up one another in that contention with which many of them were familiar, on those and other boards, and in which the principal matters thrown about were loaves and fishes—(Loud laughter)—but he would endeavour to give the noble Lord some reasons for these private theatricals; and why, however ardently his Lordship might desire to "ring the curtain down," there was not the faintest chance of these performances coming to a conclusion (Cheers). The reason was, that the public theatricals which the noble Lord was so condescending as to manage, was so intolerably bad, the machinery was so cumbersome, the parts so ill-distributed, the company so full of "walking gentlemen," the manager had such a large family and was so bent on putting that family into what was theatrically called "first business," not because of their aptitude, but because they were his family—it was for these reasons that they felt obliged to organise an opposition (Hear, hear). They had seen the "Comedy of Errors" played so dismally like a tragedy that they really could not bear it, and therefore had felt themselves obliged, in their own defence, to get up "The School of Reform" (Cheers)—hoping before the play was over to improve the noble Lord considerably. If he objected that they had no right to improve him without his licence, they ventured to claim that right in virtue of his Lordship's orchestra, consisting of a very powerful piper, whom they always paid (Laughter).

REASONS FOR JOINING THE ASSOCIATION.

As this was the first political meeting at which he (Mr. Dickens) had attended, and as his trade and calling was not associated with politics, perhaps it might be useful for him to show how he came to be there, since the reasons that had influenced him might be still balancing in the minds of other men. He wanted at all times and places sincerely to do his duty by his countrymen. If he felt an attachment towards them there was nothing disinterested or meritorious in that, for never could he sufficiently acknowledge the confidence and friendship which they had long placed in him (Loud cheers). But he had a sphere of action which he should never change, nor overstep further, nor for a longer period than that night. Whoever devoted himself to literature must be content to do the public service by literature, for he could not effectually serve two masters. Within his sphere of action he had, however, endeavoured to understand our social grievances, and to help to set them right. When the *Times* newspaper proved its then almost incredible case, in reference to the costly absurdities of that great labyrinth of misplaced men and misunderstood things which had made England unable to find on the face of the earth an enemy one-twentieth part so potent for misery and ruin as in some things she had been to herself, he believed that the gloomy silence into which the country fell was by far the darkest aspect in which a great people had been exhibited for very many years, with shame and indignation lowering amongst all classes of society, with little adequate experience of the general mind, or apparent understanding of it in Parliament, with the machinery of government and legislation going round and round, and the people falling from it, and standing aloof as if they left it to its last remaining function of destroying itself, when it had achieved the destruction of so much that was dear to them. When he said this he did believe, and he believed still, that the only wholesome turn a state of affairs so mournful could possibly take was in the waking up of the people, the out-speaking of the people, the writing of the people in patriotism and loyalty to effect those constitutional changes which were necessary in the administration of their own affairs (Cheers). At such a crisis the Administrative Reform Association arose, and at such a crisis he (Mr. Dickens) joined it (Hear).

OBJECTIONS TO THE MOVEMENT.

He had heard three main objections advanced by the opponents of the movement. The first was that the association proposed to exert its influence through the constituencies over the House of Commons (Hear, hear). He admitted that it was so. He had no hesitation in saying that he had not the smallest possible amount of faith in the House of Commons as it at present existed; and he considered, therefore, that the exercise of such influence was highly necessary for the welfare and honour of the empire (Hear, hear). Two hundred years ago Pepys, writing of the political abuses then prevailing in the House of Commons, said, "Roger Pepys tells me that it is matter of the greatest grief to him in the world that he should have been put on this trust of being a Parliament man, because he says nothing is done, that he can see, out of any truth or sincerity, but all out of mere envy and design." Now, how it came to pass that after 200 years—and especially so many years after the passing of the Reform Bill—the House of Commons had so little changed, he would not stop to inquire. He would not ask how it happened that bills that cramped and worried the people, and restricted their enjoyments—(Loud cries of "Hear, hear")—passed so easily, and that measures conducive to their real interests were so very difficult to get through Parliament? (Cheers) He would not attempt to analyse the confined air of the lobby, and reduce to their primitive gases that deadening influence which there operated upon the memory of the hon. gentleman who was so short time ago a candidate for "our vote and interest" (Hear, hear), or ask who was that secretarial figure ever flitting about them, and whose blandishments were always so irresistible; or how it always happened that those personal altercations, which involved all the movements and modifications of Shakespeare's *Troilus*,—"the quip modest, the retort courteous, the reply churlish, the reproof valiant, the counter-check quarrelsome, the lie circumstantial, and the lie direct" ("Hear, hear" and laughter). He would not stop to ask how it was that such altercations always commanded immeasurably greater interest in the House of Commons than matters involving the health, the education, and the taxation of the whole people (Hear, hear). He would not attempt to penetrate the mysteries of that secret chamber in which the political Bluebeard strangled public questions, strictly charging his last bride not to open the door, lest she should too soon discover what would be her own probable fate. He would not inquire into any of these matters, but would merely put it to the practical experience, recent and remote, of every one present whether the House of Commons was not occasionally a little hard of hearing, a little dim of sight, and somewhat slow of understanding; in short, that sufficiently invalid condition that required very close watching, and occasionally, at least, the application of the sharp stimulant of popular agitation (Hear, hear). He believed that, in order to preserve its real usefulness and independence, the people must always show themselves watchful and jealous of it—to jog its memory, and keep it awake; or, when it happened to take too much of the ministerial narcotic, to shake it and move it about in a friendly way, for the purpose of restoring its functions to their healthy exercise (Hear, hear). Then it was objected

that the tendency of this movement was to set class against class. But did it do so? On the contrary, its tendency was to bring classes together, and to unite them in harmonious action for the common interest. He wished especially to avoid placing in opposition the two words, aristocracy and people. He could well believe that each had its peculiar virtues, and perhaps its peculiar vices; but he would elevate or depress neither at the cost of a single vested right of either (Hear, hear). Instead of the terms aristocracy and people, he would use the terms the governors and the governed—but between these two bodies the association found a gulf in which lay buried thousands upon thousands of the bravest and most devoted men that even England ever had (Hear, hear). It was to prevent the recurrence of innumerable similar evils of which that great calamity to which he now alluded was the crowning evil and the consummation, and to bring together those two classes, that the association would seek to bridge over the intervening gulf by a structure founded in justice and common sense (Hear). Setting class against class was the old cry which had always been advanced against every attempt to reform abuses. He might illustrate it in the present instance by the case of a gentleman who found his house in a state of complete disorder—his servants inattentive to his interests and his wants, giving him stones when he asked for bread, serpents when he called for fish—sending dinners to the north when he ordered them to be sent to the south, and by their wastefulness, inattention, and negligence, making his house a scene of scandal and of ruin—and whose house steward, when told that all these things must be reformed—that the master would have his interests consulted, his wants attended to, and that he would keep no servants who did not perform their duties—held up his hands in pious horror, rushed down to the servants' hall, and exclaimed, "Oh, our master is setting class against class!" (Cheers and laughter.) Then with regard to the third objection, "that these Administrative Reform fellows did not mind their own business;" it was because they did mind their own business that they were an association at all (Cheers). He observed by the parliamentary debates—and there was this difference suggested by those debates between the bulls of Spain and the bulls of Nineveh (A laugh)—that, whereas in the Spanish case the bulls rushed at the scarlet, in the Ninevite case the scarlet rushed at the bull (Laughter)—he observed in the parliamentary debates that, by a curious analogy, there had been very much of the reproof valiant and the cheek quarrelsome lately, showing conclusively, in his mind, the necessity of Administrative Reform, by whomsoever and howsoever it might be applied (Hear, hear).

THE TALLY-STICK CATASTROPHE.

He could add two or three instances at the least which he knew to be true, but which, he had no doubt, would be nevertheless contradicted—but that it would be a work of supererogation to do so; for, if the people at large were not convinced by what had taken place that a case was made out for Administrative Reform, they never could be and never would be convinced (Hear, hear). There was, however, one ruling, indisputable, and well-known story which so well pointed the moral to the end which the association had in view that at the risk of incurring the wrath of St. Stephen he would mention it. Ages ago a mode of keeping accounts in the Exchequer by means of notched sticks was introduced. In the course of time the celebrated Cocker was born and died; then Walkingame, the author of the "Tutor's Assistant," and a multitude of accountants, actuaries, and mathematicians, who discovered and published means of account-keeping by ordinary arithmetic, far more ready, and which in their every-day transactions everybody used—but official routine looked upon these notched sticks as part of the constitution, and the Exchequer account still continued to be kept by these willow tallies. But towards the end of the reign of George III. it occurred to some innovating and revolutionary spirit to suggest the abolition of this barbarous custom, and immediately all the red tape in all the public departments turned redder at the idea of so bold a conception; and it was not until the year 1826 that the custom of keeping these Exchequer accounts by willow tallies ceased. In 1834 it was found that a large accumulation of these tallies had grown up in course of time, and the question arose what was to be done with these old workmen useless bits of wood? They were housed at Westminster. Common sense would have suggested that they should have been given to some of the poor miserable people who abounded in that neighbourhood for firewood; but official routine could not endure that; and, accordingly, an order was given that they should be burned privately. They were burned in a stove in the House of Lords; but the stove, being overheated with them, set fire to the paneling of the room, the paneling set fire to the House of Lords, the House of Lords set fire to the House of Commons, and the two Houses were reduced to ashes. Architects and builders were called in to erect new structures, and, although we were now in course of spending our second million of money on the work, the national pig was not yet over the stile, and the little old woman, Britannia, was not home to-night (Laughter). He thought they might reasonably come to the conclusion that it was through the obstinate adherence to the antiquated rubbish, that time had outlived and rendered useless, and which if given to the winds would have been harmless, that the destruction of the Houses of Parliament was to be attributed, and in the same way, if this antiquated and useless routine in the administration of the public departments were retained, the result would be a conflagration somewhere or other.

ADMISSION OF WORKING MEN.

The broad ground upon which the cause of the association rested was public progress, and that, in the public as in all private establishments, merit, without reference to whether it was democratic or aristocratic, should be the sole qualification for office. This object they sought to promote, not by separating classes, but by uniting together large numbers of all conditions of men, to the end that they might themselves comprehend, and, comprehending, impress upon others, the common danger and the common duty, and by keeping a vigilant eye upon the skirmishers thrown out by the generals of party to harass and confuse, take care that they did not, in attacking the smaller defaulter, lose sight of the greater. He wished the directors could devise some means of permitting intelligent working men to join the association on easier terms than subscribers of larger resources. He was anxious to see a larger number of that body connected with the movement, believing that it would conduce to the common object and the common weal (Hear, hear). When Lord Palmerston was asked for a day for Mr. Layard's motion, his reply was, "Let him find a day for himself" ("Hear," and "Shame").

I'll name of all the gods at once,
Upon what meat doth this our Caesar feed,
That he hath grown so great!

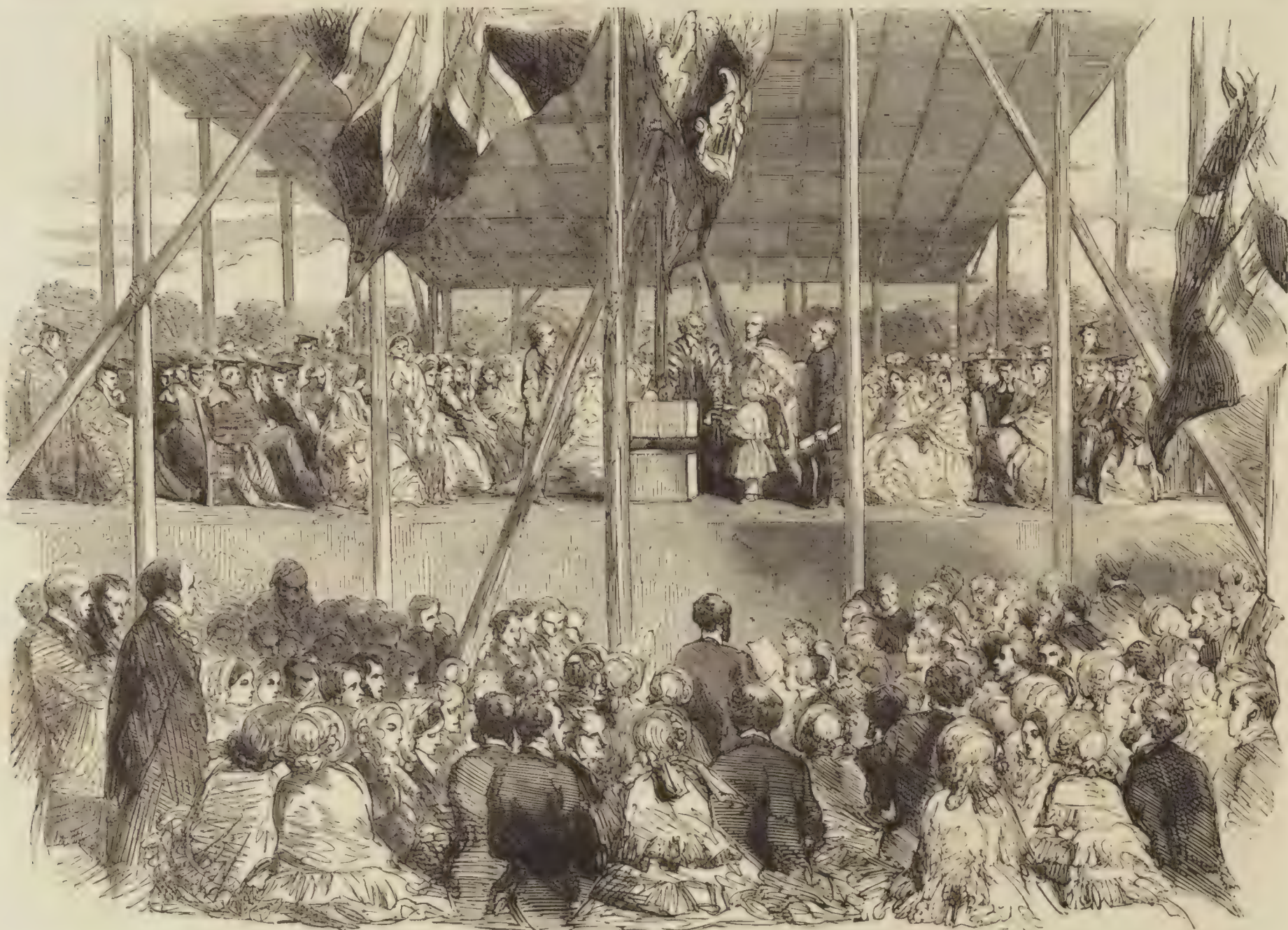
If our chairman (continued Mr. Dickens) will excuse me, I would take the liberty of reversing the sentiment, and I would say to the First Lord of the Treasury, "It is your duty, my Lord, to leave no man to find a day for himself" (Hear). You, who take upon yourself the responsibility of Government—you, who have aspired to it—who struggled for it, who intrigued for it (Hear, hear), and who, having got it, hold it tooth and nail—yours is the duty to take care that no man is left to find a day for himself in this country, with its seethings, its disappointments, its hard-working millions, its heavy taxes, its poverty, and its sufferings. Woe to the day when a man shall have to find a day for himself because the head of the Government has failed in his duty of finding for him a brighter and a better one (Hear, hear). Find you the day, First Lord; make the day; work for the day beyond your own little time, my Lord Palmerston, and history may then, but not otherwise, find a day for you—a day equally associated with the contentment of the loyal, patient, willing-hearted English people, and the happiness of your Royal mistress and her fair line of children" (Cheers).

The meeting, which was afterwards addressed by Mr. T. M'Cullagh, Mr. Layard, M.P., and Mr. Bennock, was adjourned at a quarter before ten o'clock.

THE MAMELON AND THE MALAKOFF TOWER.—When one looks at the formidable defences of the Mamelon, and the protection it had from all the Russian works to the right and left, and thinks again of the feeble resistance after which it was taken the first time, we cannot but come to the conclusion that the Russians in it must have been taken by surprise. Besides, the events after the first taking of it—the sortie of the Russians from the Malakoff Tower and the 8-gun battery, the violence of their attack which forced the French to retire for a moment, the resistance which they found the second time, and the tenacity with which the Russians defended every inch of ground—all led to the same conclusion. The account of the prisoners taken at the Mamelon is to the same effect. I heard from a gentleman who speaks Russian, and who had spoken with a cadet taken in the Mamelon at the first rush, that the latter says that they had not the slightest idea of an attack, and he was dining quietly with the General, as well as the rest of the officers, when the French made their first rush, and he had scarcely time to swallow the last morsel before he was taken prisoner. But, notwithstanding the really praiseworthy resistance of the Russians to the second attack, the formidable batteries of the Malakoff Tower, which are not more than five to six hundred feet from the Mamelon, and the even more formidable 8-gun battery behind, there is no doubt in my mind that the French were actually in the first line of the fortifications at that effect, but I saw with my own eyes numbers of dead French carried out by Russians from the abatis and the ditch, where they had very likely thrown them from the interior. The misfortune was that, as always in an assault, all control was lost over the excited soldiers, and they made an attack on the Malakoff Tower just as our own red-coats did on the Redan, "on their own hook," carried away by the frenzy of the moment, while it did not enter into the plans of the Generals to do more than take the Mamelon and the Quarries. What would have been the result had they calculated on this irresistible rush, and had taken advantage of it by sending up large reserves to support it, is, of course, matter of opinion. As it is, many French soldiers assured me that they spiked several of the guns of the first line of the Malakoff works, and they pretend they could have spiked all of them had they been provided with nails; but before the gunners, who were provided with instruments, could come up, they were obliged to leave the place. I don't know how it may have been about the Malakoff Tower guns, but every one of the guns in the Mamelon had the nails for spiking them attached; but it is not surprising that they were overlooked in the first heat.—Letter from the Camp, June 9.

THE LONDON GAZETTE

The great event of the commemoration-week at Oxford was the laying of the First Stone of the New University Museum by the Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, Chancellor of the University. The site is the open ground known as the Park. The morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells from the various churches: the weather was propitious, and, as the hour approached, the space allotted to the ladies to witness the ceremony soon became crowded. This space was from ten to fifteen feet from the front of the platform, between which and the former were arranged two groups of choristers, some in canonicals, others in plain dress. Behind the space allotted to the ladies stood the Undergraduates, and a large assemblage admitted by tickets.



THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, OXFORD.

the stone was laid, was raised about the height of five feet from the ground. Upon this were ranged two rows of seats in the form of half an octagon: these were appropriated to the various dignitaries of the University. In front of these were ranged a set of chairs for ladies with special tickets. Chairs were placed at the back of the stone for the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor; and near to the ladies was placed a chair for the Countess of Derby.

At about three o'clock the procession arrived on the platform, the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor taking their places, followed by the Doctors, Fellows, and dignitaries, all in full costume, presenting—from the varied colours of black, red, white, and gold, mixing with the light and elegant costume of the ladies—a really rich and striking scene. The coup-d'œil beyond the platform was scarcely less striking. The banners of the various countries in alliance with ours floated proudly in the breeze from the angles and in front of the tented scene.

The ceremony began with a chant and an appropriate prayer and service for the occasion; after which Lord Derby addressed the assembled audience in a clear voice, pointing out the advantages which he hoped would result from such a foundation, and asking for contributions—either to enrich the Museum or to decorate the building. The trowel, borne on a cushion by two interesting children (the son and daughter of Dr. Acland), was then handed to the Earl; the architects, Sir Thomas Deane, his son, and Mr. Woodward standing round. Mr. Lucas, the contractor to the works, carefully adjusted the stone; after which Lord Derby, in

true masonic style, spread the mortar; the plates of lead, and one with the inscription, were then placed in their resting-place in the under stone, the upper one was lowered into its place; after which his Lordship tapped it with a mallet, and used the level. The ceremony closed with the National Anthem.

The trowel, which is of silver and bronze, is highly finished, and novel in form. It is enriched by an engraved Gothic pattern on the upper, or silver, side: it was made by Skidmore, of Coventry, who has contracted for the foliated wrought-iron work which will decorate the quadrangle of the building. The trowel bears the following inscription:—

Oxford University Museum. Chief Stone laid 20th June, 1855, by the Right Hon. Edward Geoffrey Earl of Derby, Chancellor. Thomas Deane, Knt.; Thomas N. Deane, and Benjamin Woodward, Architects.

The plan of the new Museum building consists of a quadrangle 112 feet square, to be covered with an iron roof, hereafter to be described, and surrounded by a double or two-storied cloister, with open arcades, giving access to the several apartments on each floor. These apartments are lecture-rooms, professors' sitting and work rooms, and occupying the entire length of the western or principal side seen in our View. On the upper floor are the apartments devoted to the Entomological Collection, munificently presented by Mr. Hope; and the library, intended to contain the books, &c., also chiefly presented by him. These rooms are

open to the roof, and are separated by an ante-chamber in the tower. On the northern side, on the same floor, opening to the cloister (upper), is a lecture-room for 500 persons. The building seen in the centre of the View, with the four chimneys, is the great laboratory, and on the extreme right is the private residence of the Curator. The quadrangle forms the Museum; and this portion of the building, it is expected, will be peculiarly beautiful and striking, as the whole of the shafts in the two arcades surrounding it are in a fair way of being executed (by the aid of private contributions) in beautiful marbles, serpentines, &c., of this country, and the capitals carved in the same way.

It is proposed to adorn the interior of the building with statues of eminent men, by means of individual donations; and Lord Derby stated, that a certain number of these had been already subscribed for by the Queen, the Bachelors of Arts, and Undergraduates.

At the annual meeting of the Oxford Architectural Society, on the 13th inst., Dr. Acland said, with reference to the new Museum, that Oxford was about to perform an experiment: it was about to try how Gothic art could deal with those railway materials—iron and glass; and he was convinced, when the interior court of this Museum was seen, with its roof of glass supported by shafts of iron, while the pillars and columns around were composed of variously-coloured marbles, illustrating different geological strata and ages of the world, and the capitals represented the several descriptions of Floras, that it would be felt that a problem had been solved of the greatest importance to architecture.



SOUTH-WEST VIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, OXFORD.



TESTIMONIALS PRESENTED TO MR. ALDERMAN SPIERS, LATE MAYOR OF OXFORD.

PRESENTATION OF TESTIMONIALS TO
MR. ALDERMAN SPIERS,
LATE MAYOR OF OXFORD.

Our readers will recollect that about twelve months since Mr. R. J. Spiers generously did his best to honour art and literature. In return, art and literature have done their best to honour Mr. Spiers. On the 16th inst. there was a great gathering of artists and men of letters at Oxford, to carry out the plan of presenting to the late Mayor an Album of superb and costly character. The idea of this testimonial originated with Mr. John Leighton. It consists of a solander case of Levant morocco, splendidly hand-tooled, and illuminated in coloured leathers, and lined with Spitalfields silk of the richest manufacture. Its size is about 24 inches by 18. It is protected by an outer case of finely-grained oak, chastely ornamented and bound with brass-work. The contents number about 125 compositions, literary and artistic; and among the contributors are some of the most eminent men of the time.

In return for his eminent services the citizens of Oxford presented, on the same day, to Mr. Spiers, several pieces of Plate of the value of 300 guineas. These magnificent examples of presentation plate show an amount of taste in design and skill in execution rarely seen in such works. The principal cup is made of silver, partially gilt, and in the cinque-cento style of decoration. It is thirty inches high, and covered with bulbs and arabesque ornaments of the most elaborate character. The cup itself has been copied from an exquisite example in the Print-room of the British Museum, and which is attributed to Cellini. The two smaller cups are in the same style, equally elaborate and elegant, and stand eighteen inches high.

In addition to these vessels, there are two salt-cells, standing seven inches high, of a very graceful nautilus form, presented to Mrs. Spiers, as a civic compliment in consequence of her having given birth to a son during the mayoralty of her husband.

To these valuable articles was added a richly chased snuff-box, bearing this inscription:—"This snuff-box, with five other pieces of plate, was presented, June 16, 1855, to Richard James Spiers, Esq., Alderman and late Mayor of Oxford, by his friends, as well in testimony of their personal regard and of their admiration of his public conduct, as in remembrance of the splendid and graceful hospitality which distinguished his mayoralty, A.D. 1854." The salt-cells bear inscriptions of a similar nature. The armorial bearings of the city and of Mr. Spiers appear on the large grace-cup, and those of Mr. and Mrs. Spiers on the smaller ones.

MR. LEONE LEVI.

Mr. LEONE LEVI, Lecturer on Commercial Law at King's College, London, was born at Ancona, in Italy, in the year 1820; and, being intended to follow mercantile pursuits, his education was essentially practical. For several years he was commercially occupied in his native town, an important port of the Adriatic. In 1844 he arrived in Liverpool, and by laborious study he overcame the difficulties of our language in the incredibly short period of two months. In 1847 he received his certificate of naturalisation, and became a British subject. In Liverpool Mr. Levi entered into several contracts, and he first experienced the inconvenience resulting from the absence there of a Chamber and Tribunal of Commerce. He proposed their introduction in a pamphlet on the subject, and the question soon became one of public interest, and was freely discussed in the columns of the Liverpool press. A public meeting was ultimately held, and in November, 1849, the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce was established, and Mr. Levi was appointed the Honorary



MR. LEONE LEVI.—FROM A DAGUERRETYPE BY BEARD.

Secretary. In that capacity he issued circulars to foreign merchants, requesting information on similar institutions abroad. The answers received were in various languages, and chiefly related to legal anomalies respecting mercantile matters, which suggested to Mr. Levi's mind the idea of a work on the commercial law of the world. With his usual energy he immediately began to collect the necessary information. While pursuing his researches he introduced himself to the Earl of Harrowby (formerly Lord Sandon, member for Liverpool for sixteen years), whose influential support soon became of inestimable value. The Liverpool Chamber of Commerce being firmly established, Mr. Levi received the thanks of the merchants; and soon afterwards similar institutions were founded, and such as existed received new life at Leeds, Bradford, Bristol, and other places. The condition of our commercial code was engaging the attention of the Liverpool Chamber, and Mr. Levi addressed a letter to the President on the Law of Arbitration, with the foreign laws on the subject. The materials for his great work having



ANNIVERSARY OF THE WINDSOR ROYAL ASSOCIATION, IN THE HOME PARK.—HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT AWARDING THE PRIZES.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

been collected, he removed to Edinburgh to arrange them for publication, and the first part of the "Commercial Law of the World" appeared in October, 1850. In the preface he proposed the introduction of an international code of commercial law, and suggested that a conference of deputies from all nations should be held for the consideration of the subject. This was addressed to his Royal Highness Prince Albert, and resulted in Mr. Levi being summoned to Windsor Castle to explain his views more fully. Soon afterwards the Lord Provost of Edinburgh invited him to deliver a lecture in that city, and explain his novel scheme. The lecture was repeated at Glasgow; and afterwards in London, at the rooms of the Law Amendment Society, the Earl of Harrowby in the chair. The best proof of the influence and importance of Mr. Levi's lectures may be found in the fact that, whenever they were delivered, committees were immediately formed to promote the views suggested. The second part of the work was published in November, 1850; the third part in October, 1851; and the fourth part in August, 1852. The work thus completed forms a monument of persevering industry and laborious research seldom equalled, and never surpassed. Meanwhile, as a relief to his sterner duties, he delivered lectures on commercial law, commercial statistics, and the importance of assimilating the commercial laws and statistical documents of all nations, at Birmingham, Dublin, Hull, Bradford, Leeds, Belfast, Dundee, Aberdeen, and other influential towns and cities. This comparatively unknown agitation resulted in a conference held in London, at which deputies attended from every town which Mr. Levi had visited. This was designated "the first mercantile Parliament," and led to the appointment of a Royal Commission in June, 1852, to inquire into the expediency of assimilating the mercantile laws of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

In December, 1852, the Council of King's College, with exemplary forethought and liberality, appointed Mr. Levi lecturer on commercial law. The lectures, which were also addressed to mercantile men, attracted the attention of several of the leading merchants of the metropolis, and suggested the formation of a Mercantile and Maritime College in the city of London; in furtherance of which a public meeting was held at the London Tavern in April, 1853—the Earl of Harrowby in the chair—when a large and influential committee was appointed to endeavour to establish the scheme. In March, 1853, the Emperor of Austria granted to Mr. Levi the golden medal for scientific merit; and in August, 1853, the King of Prussia awarded the great gold medal reserved for works of distinguished merit to Mr. Levi's book on commercial law. At the Statistical Congress held at Brussels, last year, Mr. Levi was appointed to represent the Liverpool and Hull Chambers of Commerce, and the Edinburgh Law Reform Committee, and subsequently reported the proceedings of the Congress to the Statistical Society of London.

In June, 1851, the Council of the Society of Arts issued an advertisement announcing that the Society's Swiney prize of 100 sovereigns, in a silver goblet of like value, would, in January, 1854, be awarded to the best published Treatise on Jurisprudence, which was more especially to relate to arts and manufactures. The advertisement was circulated throughout Europe and America; and on the 20th of January, 1854, the prize was awarded to Mr. Levi's book, which may be thus described. It exhibits the commercial law of the United Kingdom and Ireland reduced into the form of a code, and computed with the codes and laws of commerce of about forty mercantile countries, placed side by side something in the manner of a polyglot Bible. Most of the foreign laws are now for the first time rendered into English. It also contains a statistical chart in which appears at a glance the area, population, revenue, expenditure, public debt, produce, manufactures, imports, exports, shipping, currency, money, weights, measures, and railways, of all countries. The long list of works studied occupies a space sufficient to appal the stoutest heart, and make the head ache with wonder at the indomitable courage required and exerted to carry a man through so many dry details, written in almost every European language. The wonder is increased when we know that nearly all have been translated by Mr. Levi's own hand.

Undismayed by difficulty, and encouraged by past success, he has recently published a popular exposition in a "Manual of the Mercantile Law of the United Kingdom," a work much needed, and which cannot fail to be of great advantage to this thoroughly mercantile community.

Mr. Levi was recently elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, as he is of the Statistical Society of London, and member of many other scientific societies, and honorary life member of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.

The gentleman whose career we have thus slightly sketched is another instance of what may be accomplished by a man steadily pursuing the course he has chosen, and suggests the importance of men devoting their powers to the fulfilment of one work, rather than spreading their energies over a large number of studies—becoming really great in none.

THE WINDSOR ROYAL ASSOCIATION.

THE sixth anniversary of the Royal Association for Improving the Condition of Labourers and the Working Classes living at Windsor, Eton, Clewer, Holy Trinity, Old Windsor, Sunninghill, Sunningdale, Windlesham, Datchet, and Egham, was held on Friday week, in the Home-park. His Royal Highness Prince Albert, the founder and patron of the association, arrived at the Windsor Station of the South-Western Railway, from Buckingham Palace, at four o'clock, attended by Colonel Hood, Colonel Biddulph, and Captain the Hon. D. de Roos, and proceeded in a pony phaeton to the usual inclosure in the Home-park, where he was received by the committee of management, amidst the cheers of a large assembly of the nobility and gentry, and the happy exhibitors and candidates. The Prince took his station on a dais in front of the centre tent, surrounded by his committee and a brilliant company. The report of the society for the past year was then read by the hon. secretary; and the presentation of prizes to each successful candidate immediately commenced—the Prince presenting them with some pleasing and suitable remark, which must have been alike gratifying and encouraging to the deserving recipients. Upon the suggestion of his Royal Highness Prince Albert, Thomas Arthur Moore, Esq., and Mr. Wright, the honorary secretary and actuary of the Windsor and Eton Savings-bank, attended on the ground, having prepared about 160 pass or depositors' books, in which the amounts of all prizes of 10s. and upwards were entered as so much money deposited in the bank; the Prince wisely conceiving that many persons would be induced to add to their little stock rather than diminish it whence once they felt the conscious pride of having become a savings-bank depositor. These books were received from the Prince with evident satisfaction.

The arrangement of the tents—twelve in number—was generally the same as in former years; but the flower-tent was a new feature, and the exhibition of plants, &c., was a great and very attractive addition to the cottagers' productions which constituted the exhibition of former years. This display of flowers and fruit was invited to test the capabilities of the neighbourhood, and to ascertain if a horticultural society could not be successfully established. On this point there cannot be two opinions after the experience of Friday. It is also well known that more first prizes from the great metropolitan exhibitions come to this neighbourhood than to any other district.

The specimens of handicraft and needlework included, besides plain needlework, marking, warping apparel generally, collars, pincushions, and mats; there were crochet-work and embroidery, and a hearth-rug, a quilt, and a carpet, composed of innumerable pieces. Then, in addition to chairs, a work-table, a wheelbarrow, &c.; there was a model of a cottage, a set of miniature blacksmith's tools, and a number of images well executed.

At two o'clock about 250 candidates, men and women, sat down to an excellent *à la carte* dinner, prepared for them under a commodious saloon, and their requirements were well attended to by the committee; the tables were decorated with vases of flowers, and literally groined with the good old English cheer; afterwards the scene became most interesting, when it might be truly said, here the Prince and the peasant, the rich and the poor, were mingled together, "as children of one great father," in the enjoyment of a gay and happy holiday. The exhibition of vegetables was very creditable, considering the lateness of the season; and the needlework and specimens of housecraft surpassed those of former years. At the close of the distribution of the prizes his Royal Highness Prince Albert, attended by the leading members of the committee, inspected the whole of the exhibition, and expressed himself well pleased with its general character, and as he took his departure his Royal Highness was again loudly cheered. In the evening a dinner of the patrons and friends of the society took place in the Town-hall, under the able presidency of Mr. John Alver Arbuthnot, of Cowarth-park, the venison being liberally supplied by her Majesty.

The society, which is under the patronage of her Majesty, Prince Albert, and her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, is supported by Royal contributions, and also those of the inhabitants of Windsor, Eton, and the neighbourhood, amounting annually to about £250, which this year has been principally expended in providing the dinner, and in the prizes awarded.

The Philippine Monks of Turin have determined to proceed judicially against the Royal decree which compels their convent among those to be suppressed.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

TENFIFES had hardly ceased to talk about "Honest John's" departure from Findon, when it was officially announced that Lord Eglinton, out of disappointment at Dirk Hatteraick's running, had also bidden good-bye, for the present at least, to the Turf, on which his "tartan" has been so conspicuous for upwards of three-and-twenty years. He came on it at nineteen, and since 1841 his stud has been in the hands of Robert, who has placed £75,000 to his credit: £19,426 of which was won in 1849. Doncaster was his favourite course, and three St. Legers have fallen to his lot, besides one Derby, two Emperor's Plates, and one Goodwood Cup. His lead-roll of English winners begins with Black Diamond, and extends through Potentate, Bellona, St. Bennett, St. Martin, Aristides, Pompey, Dr. Caius, Olona, Blue Bonnet, Van Tromp, Nerissa, Eryx, Elthron, Knight of Avenel, Vanderdecken, Flying Dutchman, &c. The latter horse won him in stakes alone £18,825, which, added to the winnings of Van Tromp, De Witt, and Vanderdecken, make a sum of no less than £32,880 from the progeny of Barbelles alone. Mr. John Stanley has "bought" his Lordship's stud, but some fancy that the change of quarters betokens a "confederacy" rather than a "retirement."

Oulton's defeat of Kingstown at Stockbridge, whose jockey did not choose to make anything like a pace, has caused many to consider the St. Leger a foregone conclusion; and it is said that Mr. Popham is so confident that Oulton's starting in the Derby would not have affected Wild Dayrell's chance, that he has offered Mr. Padwick to run the horses in October for an even thousand a side over the T. M. M. at Newmarket.

Unless De Clare's suspensory ligament strengthens marvellously, and Hickman gets round, Oulton seems at present to have very few competitors worth speaking of in the St. Leger.

The fixtures for the ensuing week lie north-east and west of "the tight little island." Carlisle has wisely reduced its meeting to two days, Tuesday and Wednesday, which have six events a-piece, an immense improvement on the old system. All the stakes are remarkably well filled, and sixty pounds will not fail to attract plenty of stalwart wrestlers into the ring on the Swifts, in which Irving, Weightman, Jackson, Gordon, and Chapman have turned so many champion-belts, by the strength of their sinews and the neatness of their "chips." Worcester has also two days' sport on Thursday and Friday, which will be far beyond an average character; while the Newmarketers (whose Second Spring has been very wisely abolished in spite of their petition to the Jockey Club) hold their July meeting on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The July Stakes is the great feature of Tuesday, but, with the exception of Alastor and Cerva, it does not contain the name of a winner of note among its twenty-seven. Tumbler's Ascot break-down seems to have left the Midsummer Stakes, on Wednesday, to "treachery and pugator, who carry even weights." The race of the week will be the Chesterfield Stakes on Thursday. Among its thirty-six are Bird-in-Hand, Sister to Exact, Flyaway, Maid of Masham colt, Brother to Omoco, Katherine Logie, and Victoria—in short, crosses of the very choicest blood we have in the kingdom. Unfortunately, Lord Chesterfield has nothing in it, not even Peter Wilkins, for a proof of whose alleged wings we must wait till the Glasgow Stakes in the Autumn. Prices were a little more brisk at Tattersall's last Monday, when a most extraordinary hollow-backed colt—brother to the Lark—fell into Lord Maidstone's hands for ten guineas; and next Monday Sir R. Pigot's stud comes to the hammer there. Lord Orford's horses, ten in number, will also be sold at Newmarket on Wednesday, as well as several of Captain Lane's. It is rumoured that this gentleman, as well as Mr. Dare, who has built the best stables in Newmarket, both think of retiring.

The "sky-blue" of Cambridge has at last triumphed over the "Waterloo blue" of Oxford, for the first time since 1849. The average weight of the men was 11st., and the Oxford boat carried 29 lb., the heaviest hammer. All other regattas seem to pale before that at Henley; and we have never seen more delightful sport there than we did this year. Monday is devoted to the Lameth regatta, as well as to another entitled "The City, Temple, and Strand." On Tuesday the Anglesley Yacht-club has a sailing-match, and the Thames Yacht-club a four-oar race and a scullers' race, at five p.m., from Putney to Barnes. Wednesday is claimed by the Royal Barch Yacht-club; and on Saturday the London Royal Yacht-club sail their third class yachts.

Loro's will be a sort of extempore Oxford Club on Monday, as sixteen of the University are to play the United All England eleven. The cricket *come* will be changed to Vincent-square on Wednesday, where the Marylebone Club will play the "present gentlemen of Winchester School." Amateurs in the metropolis will have "a divided duty" on Thursday, as Surrey and Sussex play their return match at the Oval, while the Marylebone Club and ground are also occupied in playing a return match with the Oxford undergraduates at Lord's. The Eleven of All England still continue to brave "the warmth of its July." Salisbury Ham will be their trying-place on Monday; and on Thursday they adjourn to Reading, whose cricket recollections have been embalmed for all time in the pages of Miss Mitford.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE RACES.—TUESDAY.

Trials Stakes.—Hesperus, 1. Fanny Bingham f., 2.
North Derby.—Loddenham, 1. Dame Judith, 2.
Tyne Stakes.—Van Galen, 1. Hebe, 2.
Mumbers' Plate.—St. Andrew, 1. Card-sharper, 2.
Selling Stakes.—Outcast, 1. Haxby, 2.

WEDNESDAY.

Grand Stand Stakes.—Tilly, 1. Hebe, 2.
Northumberland Plate.—Whitlock, 1. Vindex, 2.
Commercial Visitors' Stakes.—Clusel, 1. Billingham, 2.
Free Handicap.—Elihu, 1. Assay, 2.
Queen's Plate.—Bataphan, 1. Bolton, 2.

THURSDAY.

Gateshead Stakes.—Courtenay, 1. Neopolitens, 2.
Tyne Stakes.—Munition Maid, 1. William the Third, 2.
Gold Cup.—King of Trumps, 1.

ANGLO-SAXON ANTIQUITIES.—Mr. Hillier has terminated his successful excavation on Chestel Down, in the Isle of Wight, by the acquisition of additional objects. The antiquities discovered, which are really of historical importance, have been transferred to the collection of Lord Londesborough, and will be deposited at Grimston.

SCOTTISH ANTIQUITIES.—The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland lately addressed the Government, through their President, the Marquis of Breadalbane, requesting that instructions should be given to mark the position of all remains of antiquity on the maps of the Ordnance Survey now in progress. A letter from Lord Lansdowne to the Marquis of Breadalbane announces the ready compliance of the Government with the wishes of the Society of Antiquaries.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT ST. PETERSBURG.—Intelligence has been received of a severe loss by fire on the 4th inst. at the Neva Stearine Works, St. Petersburg. Insurances exist in English offices for £16,200—viz., in the Northern, £7400; Royal, £3800; Mutual, £3300; Anchor, £2200; also in three offices at St. Petersburg, and at Hamburg and Amsterdam. It is estimated that the loss will be nearly total.

THE UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION OF FINE ARTS.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

THE BELGIAN CONTRIBUTORS (CONCLUDED).

WE resume our review of the Belgian artists before Hamman's picture of "Christopher Columbus, on Board the *Santa-Maria*, Discovering the First Point of American Land." This artist enjoys considerable reputation; and has been said, by a recent French critic, to have discovered "some of the sparkling secrets of Veronese." If this discovery have been made, the old master's secret is well kept in the picture before us. An artist is seriously damaged when he is injudiciously praised. Now, while we fully and cheerfully admit that in this picture there are some good passages of colour; while we cannot withhold our admiration from some careful drawing, we must make serious deductions from the measure of commendation due to a great work. We complain that M. Hamman parades his art—that he has not the strength to hide the machinery by which he produces his effects. The figures cannot remind us of the memorable 11th of October, 1492, for we are unable to forget the models. Every man appears to have been studied carefully—from the life, but from model life, which is almost still life. It is here where the broad line runs that separates greatness from mediocrity in art. The man without imagination copies his model, having placed him in a certain attitude; the imaginative man uses the same model, simply as the poet uses the fields that stretch away to the horizon, from the buttercups at his feet. No, M. Hamman is not a great artist. He is a careful painter—with a pleasant palette—one of the list of artists who will never offend you, but neither will be once delight or astonish you. He may rank with M. Madon. Far

before the performances of these artists; far before the pretentious Scriptural subjects of Messrs. Mathieu and Co.—where the antiquated forms and established lights and shades, and reds and blues of the Italian school are preserved, and where nothing is added to the baldest imitations—are pictures like that of M. Florent Willems' "Interior of a Silk Shop in 1660," noticed in our previous article on the Belgian school. On the one hand you have all the mechanism of art: you have its spelling correctly written, but the letters fairly put together have little or no meaning. The Belgians, following the French, it must be owned, at a most respectful distance—appear inclined to forget the soul, the vital essence of art, in the correct elaboration of muscles, and the fair flow of drapery. To this correctness every other consideration gives way, till you have men, brought up in mediocre French *ateliers*, talk contemptuously of colour, as something fit to keep a child quiet. Say to French artists that the English are good colourists, and many of them will willingly concede the fact, because they have generally a contempt for colour, as their pictures too often testify. This contempt has grown beyond the French frontier, and in the Belgian pupils of French masters the vice of this feeling in art is too often most woefully apparent. You see this vice in the colossal historical picture of the Belgian collection, by M. Edouard de Bieffe. It is a scene from Flemish history. The subject is the "Compromise of the Nobles, at Brussels, on the 16th of February, 1566. To French critics it is the picture of the Belgian exhibition: it is of course *grandiose*; we are told that "the figures are intelligently grouped," and that "the composition is not without a certain strength." This verdict, lately pronounced by M. Chalon d'Argé, is a very safe one. You may turn it in which way you please—for or against the painter at the bar. If it be your pleasure that M. de Bieffe shall be marked out as a star rising to glorious heights in the realms of art, the critics with you; if, on the contrary, it be your painful duty to set aside the artist as a polished mediocrity, the critic is still on your side. To trim in criticism is a proceeding to be watched with suspicion. Now it appears to us that no unprejudiced man can throw himself upon the settee opposite this extensive work and fairly examine it without having a very decided opinion on its merits. It is French in every detail—in colour or want of colour; in composition and drawing. But then M. Bieffe is the pupil of M. David d'Angers, a French sculptor. You see it at a glance. There is not a figure that does not recall the fact to your mind. The performance should have been in one of the French salons—if the French Hanging Committees could have been persuaded to pass it at all! For while we declare the treatment to be French, we cannot add that this treatment has all the strength which young Jérôme of the French Classic school displays. The drawing is pretty correct, but neither bold nor original. The figures are all in set attitudes again, as in other pictures of the Belgian collection already noticed. The contrast between the calm solemnity of the middle-aged men, and the wild gestures of the young actors in the scene, is about the only evidence of thought throughout the entire performance. This is a touch of study—something which the pupil cannot get either from the round or from the model. All the rest of the picture may be taught. We remember witnessing an interview between a well-known painter and a young fellow who had arrived with a panel in his hand, to submit a copy he had made from an old picture to the judgment of this well-known man. The interview was, to the young fellow, an important one. The artist's verdict was to decide the boy's parents to give him up to, or turn him from, art. Only those men whose early dream has been a life before an easel, can understand the agitation with which the copy was held up to the light for the critic's judgment. The boy was astonished at the coolness of his judge. He was, however, intensely excited when this judge, giving him back the panel, told him that any person of common sense might be taught to copy, and that, if he meant to give him an idea of his power, he might bring him a pocket-full of any rough, original pen-and-ink or pencil sketches he happened to have at home. The boy went away, but never returned with the sketches. Now, I can imagine that if M. de Bieffe had been presented to such a judge with his early works, he would have been similarly dismissed. He would have been told that he had a taste for art—that his eye was true—his pencil likely to become flowing. The picture before us might have been seen "looming in the distance" of his early Academy studies. But taste is not strength. To have a fine appreciation of poetry is not to have the power of distilling the poetic essence! This point is too often neglected, and the result is a collection of paintings like that exhibited by the Belgians. There is Joseph Stevens, brother of the artist we have already noticed—to quote another notable instance from the Belgian department! Are not his cats and dogs plain plagiarisms from Landseer? Even the title of his pictures are drawn from the Royal Academy catalogue! The "Good Mother," representing a bitch with two or three pups before a wooden bowl—is an effective copy. Then again the catalogue bids us regard an "Unconscious Philosopher," we turn to the number indicated, and find a dog contentedly gnawing a bone. In pictures like these, the force is in the title. Call this picture a dog gnawing a bone, and half its charm is lost. The title should be engraved upon the frame, therefore, as part of the work. Without this precaution the fable loses all its force, it becomes a bit of literal precision. We then have to notice whether there is a charm in the simple treatment of the dog—in the complexion of the bone! With the sense always present to us, that the spirit of the performance is one which children have; viz., imitation—it is difficult, perhaps, to pay the moderate share of praise due to M. Stevens's free hand, and pleasant colour. He is a good pupil, who can never become a master.

We have now rapidly reviewed the important pictures sent by Belgian artists to this first Universal Exhibition of the Fine Arts. We have seen where Landseer's subjects have borrowed from the Dutch, the Flemish, and the Italian schools; we have watched the influence of the French Academy, with its Classic rage, upon them; we have seen where they have wandered to England for models. But we have traced few really original conceptions in the list of works. Alfred Stevens, Florent Willems, and Dyckmans, although not exhibitors of pictures painted by the yard, are the men of strength who have advanced from Brussels to the universal competition in Paris. Of this trio we should be inclined, if called upon, to give the palm to Willems. The girl selecting the silks is a figure that lives in the mind, that comes back to us as the memory of mountain heights and wealth of architecture returns at intervals to charm once more. The French hardly deign to notice this picture; undoubtedly it is *mesquin* to them, and they prefer De Bieffe's imposing canvas. This preference is one against which it is almost vain to do battle. The French picture-market has created, and will sustain, the cultivation of the colossal in painting. Every parish church gives a commission for an altar-piece, or a church picture of some kind. And in churches small pictures would be ineffective. Thus the market has created the style. The cultivation of the Classic is one in which its professors have regard rather to their interest than to the vital principles of their art. In Belgium similar influences govern art. Pictures are painted chiefly to decorate churches. Hence the pretensions of De Bieffe and Co., and the little attention paid to the really superior claims of men like Willems.

I have already briefly noticed the progress accomplished in the Palace of Industry. We will now proceed, through the southern doors, round the Panorama Building through a gallery—into the wonderfully-long *omaze*, or Machinery and Raw Produce Gallery. It was only on Sunday last that this gallery was entirely thrown open to the public. It is the feature of the Exhibition undoubtedly. It is unlike any other preceding exhibition of raw produce or machinery. The visitor is wearied with the extent and variety of things exhibited: with the endless lumps of coal, the colossal cakes of soap, the thousands of labelled bottles filled with grain, the endless array of various ores, the blue and red agricultural implements, the colossal engines, web like spinning machinery, and the curious models. It is difficult to disentangle the wheels and cranks of one machine from those of its neighbours. In the Raw Produce Department the passages left are too narrow. The central space is, however, prettily arranged, with a fountain playing from the cups of bronze flowers, painted to imitate nature. Of course, eagles and tricolor flags abound.

Canada has here a rich collection of raw produce. At the eastern end a Canadian timber trophy is being reared; and not far off is the great clock of Mr. Bennett, of Cheshire, hung with velvet, and adorned with showy fringe. Near the clock, Price and Co. exhibit candles; behind lies the iron trade of England in miniature; and in the galleries above, to the right and left, are samples of our colonial produce. Our woods from Jamaica are, I believe, a remarkable series. Further westward I noticed some stout cordage from Holland, an immense Austrian trophy of candles, a fine model of a coal-mine, and an elaborate series of products from Algeria (the same, I suspect, which the public have examined months ago, in the Bureaux of the Ministry of War). It includes some fine ornamental woods, some excellent cotton and wheat, and some cheap and apparently excellent cigars.

In the collection of English machinery the Hydraulic Apparatus for Testing Chain, Cables and Appold's Pump appear at present to be the favourite curiosities. (At page 661 we have engraved another fine specimen of English machinery—McCormell's Locomotive Express Engine.)

I have omitted to mention among the colossal wonders of the Exhibi-

(Continued on page 656.)

C. L. Eastlake, Esq., F.R.A.
 G. H. Frumel, Esq., F.R.S.
 Clarkson Stanfield, Esq., R.A.
 R. Westmacott, Junr., Esq., F.R.S.
 S. Proust, Esq., F.S.A.
 Philip Hardwick, Esq., R.A.
 Each Peer is named "Warranted Pure Cumberland Coal."
 Mordan and Co., London.

P A R I S U N I V E R S A L E X H I B I T I O N .



THE FINE ARTS BUILDING.

(Continued from page 654.)

tion a huge crystal chandelier, the contribution of Messrs. Defries and Sons, of Houndsditch. This is believed to exceed in magnitude any chandelier hitherto manufactured: it is composed of very rich cut-glass; the height from the top vase to the final knob is 24 feet, and its circumference is 50 feet.

We quote the following from the *Morning Post* of Wednesday:—

"The number of visitors is increasing daily. On the day of the gratuitous entrance accorded by the Emperor, on the last Sunday in May, the

number of visitors was 80,118. The crowd at the Beaux-Arts yesterday was also very considerable, amounting to 19,656. The following account of the receipts of the Universal Exhibition, including the Beaux-Arts, may prove interesting. From the 16th to the 31st of May, when the ticket was 5f., the largest sum received on any one day was 12,100f., and the smallest 5995f.; on the 1f. days—from June 2 to June 18—the largest sum received was 14,532f., and the average 13,000f., showing a very slight difference in the daily receipts. On the 20-centimes days the receipts were:—June 3, 11,843f.; 10th, 14,307f.; 17th, 16,200f.; and since daily about 20,058f.

"The Emperor and the Empress visited the Exhibition Palace on Saturday. The Empress, as well as the Countess de Montebello and the Marquise de Las Marismas, were drawn through the various parts of the building in rolling chairs. That in which her Majesty was seated is a present from the Queen of England. Their Majesties in particular passed a considerable time in the interior of the Panorama. The long *annexe* was also examined by the Imperial party. M. Fould, Minister of State, was in attendance. The Fine Arts Galleries are crowded daily; and, in fact, the Universal Exhibition is at length attracting the attention it merits."



THE "ANNEXE" FOR MACHINERY.



KING ALFRED THE GREAT TEACHING THE ANGLO-SAXON YOUTH.—DRAWN BY JOHN GILBERT.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



MOHAMMED BASHA, THE NEW BEY OF TUNIS.

MOHAMMED BASHA, THE NEW SOVEREIGN OF TUNIS.

(From a Correspondent.)

THERE is much in the past history of that stretch of country on the North African Coast, claimed for so many centuries by the Moslem Conquerors who followed Abdallah, the Civil and Ecclesiastical Missionary-General of the Prophet of Mecca, which, in point of importance, is not inferior to that of any territory in the world. In it is comprised that immense coast from the Atlantic Ocean to the Bashalic of Egypt, and within its limits is the site of the ancient Phœnician colony, Carthage, which, though it may yield to Rome, is not inferior in interest to any other city or country of antiquity. Carthage! Where is the student of classic lore who, at the very mention of that "colony," does not conjure up to his mind a host whose heroic exploits in the field of battle—whose patriotism, valour, virtue, and talent, have been the theme of writers whose fame will never die? Not only Pagan but Christian Carthage has also had its illustrious worthies who, though dead, ever live. Christianity, however, as well as Paganism, had to give way to the religion of the Koran. Just before the close of the seventh century, the great city of Dido fell for the third time before the conquering hosts of Hassan, and with that fall Christianity was swept away from the land which gave birth to Augustine, Tertullian, and Cyprian.

The scenes enacted, and the devastations perpetrated, and the misery and wretchedness which, with few exceptions, successive rulers have heaped upon that magnificent country, are only partially chronicled by the historian; but these few entries exhibit in a fearful degree the dark in-

redients of the human heart. It is, therefore, with unmitigated pleasure that one records the accession to the throne of a Prince like Mohammed, the eldest son of Hassan, the penultimate ruler of Tunis. On the 1st of the present month his cousin, Ahmed Basha, died, and on the same day Mohammed was proclaimed his legitimate successor.

Mohammed Basha is now bordering upon fifty, and is above the middle stature. He has a fair complexion, blue eyes, and a kind and benevolent expression of countenance.

When his uncle Mustapha died, eighteen years ago, it was commonly believed that he would assume the reins of government; and, so resigned was his cousin (the Prince who has just died) to a cruel fate, that when he entered his apartment, followed by his suite of Mamelukes, Ahmed fell upon his knees and implored for mercy. But Mohammed bade him rise. "Fear not, my Lord," said the noble Prince, "I came to do thee no harm. I deplore the demise of my Lord, but I rejoice now to render to thee what is thy right." And, taking hold of his cousin's arm, he led him into the great hall, where he placed him upon the throne, and proclaimed him the legal Sovereign of the Regency of Tunis; and the roar of artillery from the fortresses announced to the inhabitants of the capital a successor to Mustapha Basha.

The history of this Regency presents us with instances where the parties acted very differently from Prince Mohammed. The country was in his favour; but, Ahmed having been his senior, he was determined not to infringe upon a custom which has been in practice from the days of Hassan Ben Ali, the founder of the present dynasty, who was elected by the army at the commencement of the last century.

The resources of the regency of Tunis are very great; these were not only neglected by the last ruler, but his perverse mode of administration had the effect of impoverishing the country to a fearful degree. Often have I heard the people ejaculating the brief but comprehensive prayer, "Would to God Sidi Mohammed ruled over us!" A year ago I expressed my conviction in my last work, "Evenings in My Tent," to this effect:—"I have little or no hope of Ahmed Basha's ever changing his policy. The only hope this wretched country has is concentrated in his successor, Prince Mohammed Bey, who sees the absurdity of keeping up a large army. . . . He is, moreover, passionately fond of agriculture, and has a natural taste for science, which he not only cultivates, but even now zealously encourages, whenever an opportunity offers itself." He is more fond of seeing cultivated fields, well-stocked storehouses, than thousands of useless and starving soldiers. He prefers to listen to the blessings of his subjects rather than to their curses; and is far more anxious to behold a flourishing and happy population than deserted villages, abandoned fields, neglected gardens, and multitudes of wretched and miserable creatures seeking for shelter and protection within the boundaries of French Africa.

From my intimacy with this Prince—having travelled with him a good distance into the interior of Africa—I have reason to believe that by his just and mild rule he will not only do much to raise his 3,000,000 subjects from their degraded condition, but he will likewise use every effort to further commerce. The "Society for Exploring and Evangelising Central Africa by Means of Native Agency" may also look upon him as its friend; and I earnestly hope that the funds of that institution will soon

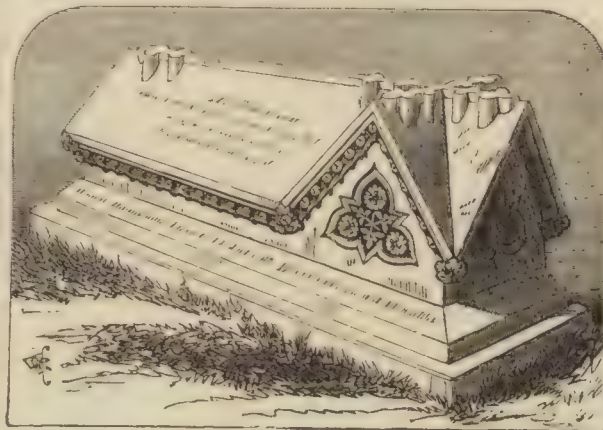
enable it to send out agents to commence the noble work contemplated. Carthage may also now be resuscitated, and who can estimate the amount of light its monuments may serve to throw upon the famous ruins of Nineveh with which the dauntless and persevering Layard has enriched Britain's noble Museum, and upon sacred and profane history in general. We have Roman, Grecian, Egyptian, Babylonian, and Moorish architecture represented in various public institutions in this country; and, in the Crystal Palace, many of these specimens are restored. Why should we not also now have specimens of Phœnician architecture? And what prevents us now from having a Phœnician Court within that miniature world at Sydenham? Let efforts now be made, and I have every reason to believe that they will be crowned with success.

A letter from Tunis of the 6th inst. in the *Moniteur* states:—

Mohammed Bey has inaugurated his accession to power by some administrative reforms which are said, only the prelude to others still more important which he has in contemplation. The duty levied by the Government on the corn crops has been considerably diminished, the reduction amounting to as much as 50 per cent on wheat and 69 per cent on barley. This duty is estimated before the harvest by agents who examine the crops and fix the quantity to be paid in kind by each grower. Another measure, not less advantageous, is a reduction of from 25 to 6½ per cent of the duty on cattle, camels, mules, &c., sold in the public markets, and which is paid by the seller. Two monopolies, those of the manufacture of lime and of bricks, have also been abolished, so that any one may now make those articles. The new Bey has set at liberty a prince of his family, the only son of Sidi Othmar Bey, assassinated in the night of the 20th of December, 1814. This prince, who was at that period only five years of age, has been ever since kept in close confinement in the palace of the Bardo by the different Beys who have succeeded to the throne of Tunis since the tragical death of his father. Mohammed Bey has also reopened the courts of justice, which had remained closed for nearly three years, during the illness of his predecessor. Every day, except Friday, any one who has complaints to bring forward may be heard by the Bey himself, who immediately decides on the various cases. This measure has given the greatest satisfaction.

TOMB OF SIR M. H. HICKS BEACH, BART., OF WILLIAMSTRIP PARK.

THIS tomb has just been erected over the grave of the late Sir Michael Hicks Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P. for East Gloucestershire, in the churchyard of Coln St. Aldwyn. The effect is striking, and the design presents



MONUMENT TO SIR M. H. HICKS BEACH, BART., COLN ST. ALDWYN.

a beautiful model of a Christian tomb. The intersection of the gables forms a floriated cross. In the panels on the north-west and south sides are carved lilies and passion flowers. At the east end are the arms of the family emblazoned upon a shield, lying appropriately at the foot of the cross. A text of Scripture is inscribed on each side of the plinth.

The work has been well executed in Ancaster stone, by Mr. S. Cundy of Pimlico, from a design by Mr. George Row Clarke, architect.

The inscription is as follows:—

In memory of Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart., M.P., who died 22nd Nov., 1854, aged forty-five years.

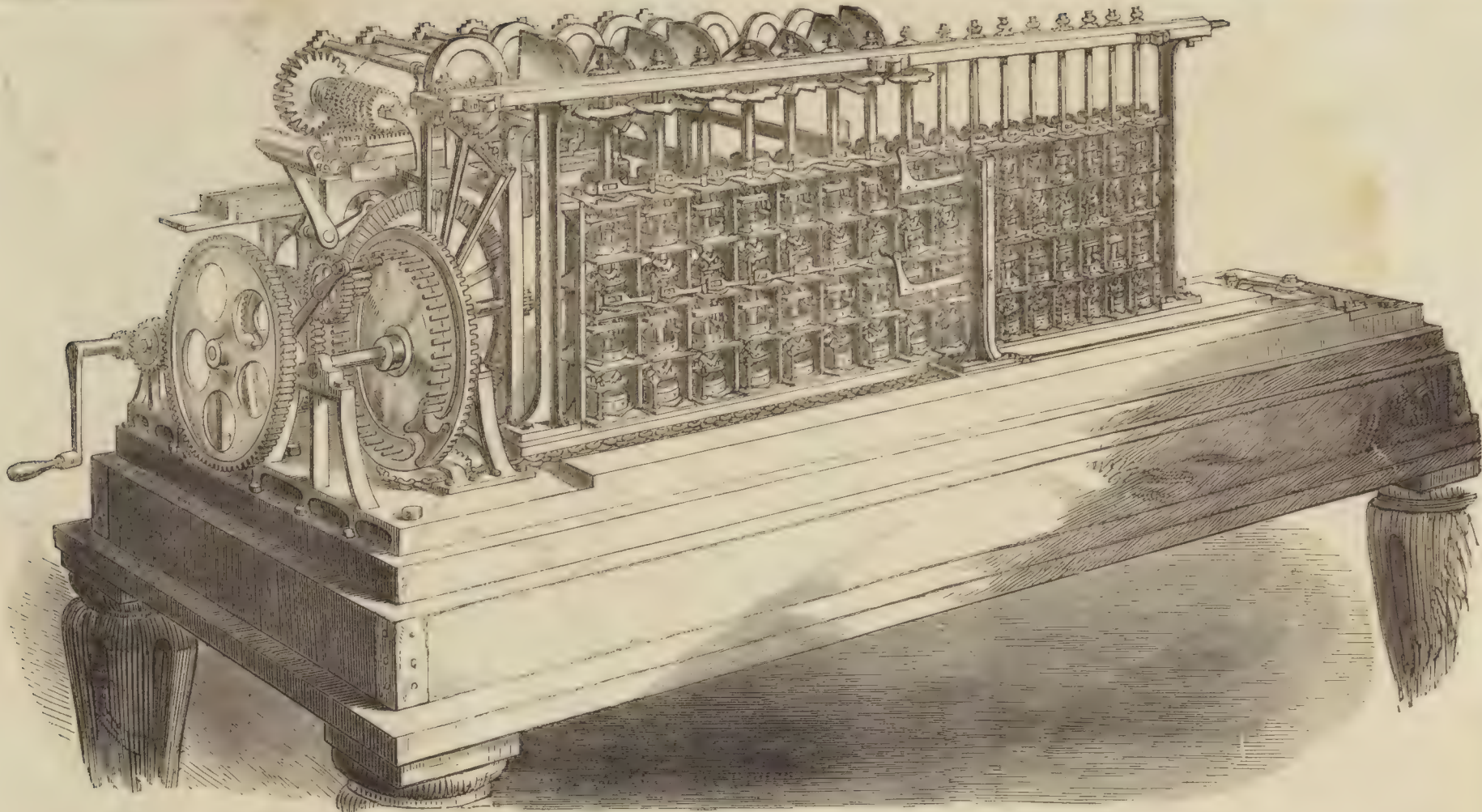
On the plinth is inscribed:—

In thy presence, Lord, is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.



PALACE OF THE BEY OF TUNIS—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)



MESSRS. SCHEUTZ'S NEW CALCULATING MACHINE.

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINE FOR THE PARIS UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION.

AN Express Engine, destined for the Paris Exhibition, and appropriately entitled the Eugénie, has been constructed by Messrs. Fairbairn and Sons, of Manchester, upon the design of Mr. McConnell, of Wolverton, combining all the latest improvements of that gentleman—viz., prolonged firebox, combustion-chamber, solid wrought-iron piston, hollow axle, &c. The general contour of this engine is symmetrical, suggesting the idea of stability and lightness. It has been running express and mixed passenger trains on the southern division of the London and North-Western Railway, and has amply realised all expectations as to its performance. Subjoined is an account of the experiments, which show very good results, the engine consuming a moderate quantity of fuel per mile, with a corresponding good evaporation.

In a journey of 280 miles, with express and other passenger trains, with an average load of 41.5 tons, the consumption of coke was 19.6lb. per mile, evaporating 8.9lb. of water per lb. of coke.

The following are the principal dimensions of this Engine:—Diameter of cylinder, 15 in.; length of stroke, 22 in.; diameter of driving-wheel, 7 ft.; ditto of boiler, 4 ft.; length of boiler, 10 ft. 6 in.; ditto of firebox proper, 3 ft. 9½ in.; ditto of combustion-chamber, 4 ft. 7½ in.; heating surface in combustion-chamber and firebox, 159 sq. ft.; ditto in tube, 731 sq. ft.; total heating surface, 890 sq. ft. The boiler contains 414 tubes, 6 ft. long, 1½ in. outside diameter. Area of grate, 13 sq. ft. Weight of engine in working order, 21.18 tons.

NEW CALCULATING MACHINE.

THIS Calculating Machine which has created great interest in the scientific world, is the invention of Messrs. George and Edward Scheutz, of Stockholm, and is called by them a Tabulating Machine. It calculates any table not requiring more than four orders of differences to fifteen places of figures, and stereotypes the results to eight places of figures, with proper correction for the last figure, besides five places of figures in the argument. The whole machine is about the size of a small square piano.

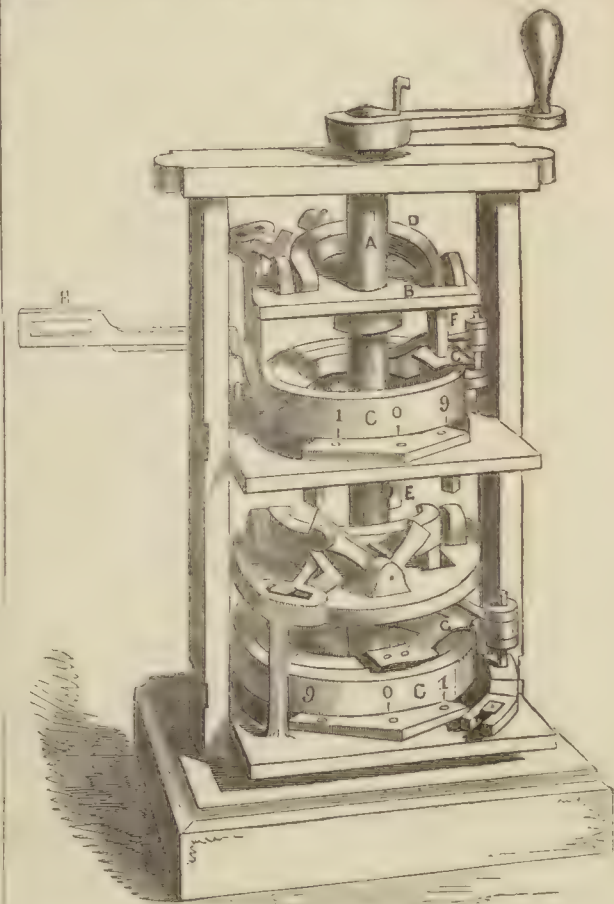
The calculating portion of the machine, as appears in the front of the

Drawing, consists a row of fifteen upright steel axes passing down the middles of five rows (fifteen in each row) of silver-coated numbering-rings, each ring being supported by, and turning concentrically on, its own little brass shelf, which has a hole in it sufficiently large to allow the steel axis to pass through without touching. Round the face of each ring are engraved the ordinary numerals, one of which appears in front at a time; and the numbers shown in any horizontal row of rings are read as in ordinary writing. The first row shows the resulting number or answer to fifteen places of figures, eight places of which the machine stereotypes. The second row of rings expresses the first order of Differences, if necessary to fifteen places of figures; and the third, fourth, and fifth row of rings similarly show the second, third, and fourth orders of Differences. Any row can be made to show and calculate with any numbers expressed according to the decimal scale, such as the number 98654321056789; the first eight figures of which if in the top row would be stereotyped. Or (by simply changing two perpendicular rows of rings) it can show and calculate with numbers expressed in the sexial system—degrees, minutes, seconds, and decimals of a second—such as 87 deg. 43 min. 24.687356402 sec., which result, if it appeared in the upper row of rings, would be stereotyped 87 deg. 43 min. 24.69 sec.

The proper argument to each result is also stereotyped at the same time, and in its proper place. Nothing more is required than to set each row of figure-rings to Differences calculated from the proper formula, and place a strip of sheet lead on the slide of the printing apparatus; when, by turning the handle (to do which requires not so much power as can be exercised by a small turnspit dog), the whole table required is calculated and stereotyped in the lead. By stereotyping in the lead is meant that the strip of lead is made into a beautiful stereotype mould, from which any number of sharp stereotype plates can immediately be produced ready for the ordinary printing-presses. At the usual rate of working, 120 lines per hour of arguments and results are calculated and actually stereotyped ready for the press. The Machine which has been brought to England by Messrs. Donkin, has been kindly shown and explained on several occasions to various scientific persons at the rooms of the Royal Society, by Mr. Gravatt, F.R.S.

The following are the details of the explanatory model:—A is a shaft on which are fixed the stages or platforms B. C C are circular rings on which the indices appear; these rings are in no way attached to the shaft,

but are worked by the trigger-pieces (D D), which come into gear with the cogs (E) at the time when the revolution of the shaft brings the tail-piece (F) of the trigger (D) in contact with the rising piece (G) upon the lower ring. It will be seen that, if the shaft still revolves, it will give motion to the ring, and produce the index required. The circular ring (C) has upon it a projecting piece, which, when a carrying operation is required, throws out the switch lever (H), and, by a beautiful contrivance, not shown here, produces the required carriage. It would occupy too much



MESSRS. SCHEUTZ'S NEW CALCULATING MACHINE.—EXPLANATORY MODEL.

space to give a complete idea of the Machine; but what has been given will convey to the reader a general idea of this beautiful invention. The Machine is consigned to the care of Messrs. B. Donkin and Co., engineers, London.

It will be seen by the specimen tables here given, which are from the plates produced by the Calculating Machine itself, how perfectly it does its work. Plate No. 1, represents the Arc to the Sine. Plate No. 2, the No. and its Logarithm.

Sin.	Arc.	No.	Log.
230	13 17 49,46	1101	3.0417873
231	13 21 21,43	1102	3.0421816
232	13 24 53,46	1103	3.0425755
233	13 28 25,53	1104	3.0429691
234	13 31 57,66	1105	3.0433623
235	13 35 29,84	1106	3.0437551
236	13 39 02,08	1107	3.0441476
237	13 42 34,36	1108	3.0445398
238	13 46 06,70	1109	3.0449315
239	13 49 39,10	1110	3.0453230

On Monday morning, about ten o'clock, his Royal Highness Prince Albert, attended by Captain the Honourable D. C. F. De Roos and Dr. Becker, inspected the Calculating Machine at the apartments of the Royal Society, at Somerset-house, where the Prince was received by Mr. Gravatt and Mr. Donkin, by whom the Machine was explained to his Royal Highness.



M'CONNELL'S EXPRESS LOCOMOTIVE ENGINE FOR THE PARIS UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION.

BANKRUPTCY OF STRAHAN, PAUL, AND BATES.

SINCE the forgeries of Fautleroy and the flight of Rowland Stephenson, no banking catastrophe in the metropolis has excited so much painful interest, or roused so lively an indignation, as the failure of Strahan and Co. With the exception of the firm of Messrs. Child and Co., it was the oldest establishment of the kind in London, having been founded by Mr. Jeremiah Snow, one of the goldsmiths whose money in the Exchequer was seized by King Charles the Second to the extent of £59,780 18s. 8d. Mr. Lawson, in his "History of Banking," states that he was permitted to inspect the books of this bank kept in the year 1672, which showed that "the nobility of the land were in the habit of frequenting their shop, and borrowing money on the deposit of various gold and silver articles, such as gold and silver tankards, golden thimbles, and other valuables of a miscellaneous, and sometimes comical, description."

The head of the late firm dropped the name of Snow, and took that of Strahan, on receiving a large part of the fortune of his uncle, Mr. Strahan, who had held the patent of King's printer. The constituency of this bank was numerous and opulent, chiefly consisting of the aristocracy, clergy, and members of the legal profession; and implicit confidence was reposed in the prudence and integrity of the partners. They received large deposits in trust; and on these securities they contrived to have raised £113,000 by fraudulent sales. As navy-agents they traded under the firm of Halford and Co.; and of course that establishment is involved in the ruin of the bank; though it appears from the proceedings in Basinghall-street that, could the accounts be legally separated, Halford and Co. would be solvent, with a considerable surplus. The total amount of the liabilities is £380,603. The assets are set forth at £100,000 or £170,000; and some £276,000 advanced on foreign railways may be, in part or in the whole, recovered; but on such realisation the creditors will be wise not to place much dependence.

The immense loss to individuals incurred by this failure is not the only evil by which it has been attended: it has shaken confidence in all private banks, and struck a withering blow at mercantile honour. Already many accounts have been transferred to joint-stock banks; and, to allay the panic kindled by suspicion, several of the houses of Lombard-street and its moneyed neighbourhood have invited their constituents to inspect their deposits periodically—the most convincing proof of the terror that has been inspired. This is a wise and honest procedure on the part of those persons, who, conscious of their own rectitude, challenge investigation; and it is one of which the constituents should avail themselves, in justice not only to themselves but to their bankers, whose credit may have been wrongfully impaired by the recent disclosures. It is a false delicacy that does not earnestly respond to this manly invitation. By inspection, public confidence will be restored; justice will be done to trustworthy bankers; and those among the fraternity who are addicted to speculation will be taught a lesson of prudence and restraint. The legitimate business of a banker is to receive and pay money, acting as an agent and accountant to his customers, and he never can be justified in deviating in the least degree from this rigid rule. Strahan and Co. deserve the severest condemnation for advancing cash on foreign railways, for such operations do not fall within the province of banking; and it is evident that, to extricate themselves from the difficulties in which this most culpable course involved them, they fraudulently sold or pawned the securities of their clients, deposited with them for safe custody. Had a periodical supervision or inspection been exercised, they would have been saved from the crimes they have perpetrated.

We ought not to quit this branch of the subject without referring to a fact connected with the failure of Messrs. Remington, Stephenson, and Co., who were suspected in December, 1823; and we specially allude to it that the customers of banks may be induced to make a rigid, not a nominal, inspection of their accounts. The following circumstances are narrated in Mr. Lawson's "History of Banking," p. 252:—

The mode adopted by Stephenson to deceive his partners with respect to the various deposits of Exchequer Bills was, by having sealed packets with the name and address of the depositor, and amount of Exchequer Bills, endorsed thereon; so that the bankers who examined the state of affairs at the bank, concluding that the actual securities were enclosed in the envelopes, did not examine them further. Had they done so, they would have discovered that the Exchequer Bills had all been abstracted, and slips of paper substituted.

This trick was more base than ingenious, for men of ordinary caution would have broken at least some of the envelopes; but it appears that though five of the principal bankers in London investigated the affairs of Remington, Stephenson, and Co., all of them were completely thrown off their guard, and satisfied with the mere production of fictitious documents. Such was their confidence, or their infatuation, that each of them actually advanced £20,000 on such securities as they found the bank to possess, and made a declaration that they were fully satisfied of the solvency of the house. The consequence was that many persons who had withdrawn their accounts returned them, and ultimately fell victims to the fraud, when Stephenson absconded, and the fiat of bankruptcy was issued out against the firm on the 10th January, 1829. We may add to this statement that the guilty man, and his confidential clerk Lloyd, escaped from the hands of justice, and reached Savannah on the 27th of February. The extent of his defalcations at the Bank was £200,000, besides the abstraction of Exchequer Bills to the amount of £70,000. From these facts depositors in banks who intend periodically to inspect their securities may learn a useful lesson; and if any dishonest bankers are still in existence, which we are not willing to suppose, they may be warned by this exposure, which is written in the interests of the public, that they must be prepared with realities, not with fictions.

However painful the confession, however it may wound national pride, it is not to be denied that, at the present period, mercantile honour and the integrity of retail traders are sadly compromised. The failure of Strahan and Co., frightful as it is, does not stand alone in the circle of delinquencies. The case of Davidson and Gordon assumes a character equally hideous as far as good faith is involved; and their liabilities were stated by Sir Peter Laurie, on Tuesday last, to amount to £500,000. In the last number of the *Quarterly Review*, in an article on the adulteration of food, it is shown

to be a general practice to vend not only spurious, but in many cases poisonous, ingredients for genuine and wholesome commodities; and this wickedness is even carried to medical drugs, so that the prescriptions of physicians fail to cure, the medicines being too feeble to expel disease. Surely such a crime falls little short of murder. It is gratifying to state that Mr. Scholefield has obtained a Select Committee of the House of Commons to investigate this subject: the honourable member stated that, "if fraud had increased so as to outstep existing legislation, the means of destroying fraud had been still more increased by the knowledge which had been acquired of organic chemistry." All these circumstances show a state of demoralisation which it is appalling to contemplate.

The renewal of the Bank Charter Act, which expires next year, provided Government gives the Bank notice, will afford an opportunity of entering fully into a consideration of the remedial measures which are still required to give stability to our banking institutions, and inspire the public with a wise confidence. We are warned by the cases now pending to prepare for the future without delay, and ripen a sound opinion on the subject before another catastrophe takes us by surprise. It should be borne in mind that the Act of 1844 does not wholly, but only partially, provide for the convertibility of notes into gold; for it enacted, among other provisions, that an aggregate amount of notes circulating through the country during four weeks after the 10th of October, 1843, might still be circulated, without calling on the issuers to hold at command an equivalent amount of bullion—a permission which violated the principle on which the Act was founded; that principle affirming that the obligation to pay a pound meant, neither more nor less, the obligation to pay a definite weight of gold of an ascertained fineness. One of the most desolating results of this laxity was the failure of Mr. Rufford's banks, which appear to have been insolvent when the law was passed. His bank at Stourbridge owed £225,000, and paid a dividend of 4s. in the pound; while his Broomsgrove bank owed £227,000, and its assets only yielded 1s. in the pound. We are quite aware that the case of Strahan is very different from that of Rufford, as the former was not a bank of issue: but at a crisis of this description it is the duty of a watchful and independent journal to encourage caution in all departments of banking, and recommend a system impregnable to fraud. As far as possible we should buoy the rock before vessels strike on it and the crews are wrecked. In this spirit, then, of premonition, we would refer to a letter addressed by the first Sir Robert Peel to both Houses of Parliament, on the 3rd of April, 1826, in consequence of the frightful panic of 1825, in which he reminded them that he had advised that all banks should give security to Government, in land, the public funds, or other tangible property, amounting at least to half the value of their bills or notes in circulation. He adds these words:—"My proposition was not favoured with any notice; yet, had it been adopted, I am of opinion that most of the panic and distress now so severely felt in the nation would have been avoided." It is very probable that in these days of routine these remarks of our own may also be disregarded; but it is a consolation to know that we are endeavouring to fulfil our duty by placing facts before our numerous readers. How many families have been reduced to ruin, how many fair prospects have been blighted, by the frauds of Strahan? Would not these have been avoided if the press long since had advocated the practice of depositors examining their securities? Has not the advice come too late to save the criminals and their victims? The bankers themselves now invite their constituents to examine their securities, and it redounds to their honour to have promptly taken this course; and sure we are that every honest and solvent banker, issuing his own notes, would give security to Government, for such a plan would protect him against a run in all cases of panic, whether they arose from groundless alarm or reasonable apprehension.

PRESBYTERIAN ANNIVERSARY.—THE WAR AND AMERICAN SLAVERY.

On the 21st inst., the two hundred and tenth anniversary of the Provincial Meeting of Presbyterian Ministers of Lancashire and Cheshire was held in Renshaw-street Chapel, Liverpool, and in the evening the several clergymen attending above meeting, with many lay-members of the congregation, dined together at the Adelphi Hotel. After the usual loyal toast, the Chairman proposed "Our country; its free institutions, and beneficial progress; may she be moderate and just in the exercise of her power, while ever in sympathy with the modest aspirations of other lands." The sentiment was responded to by the Rev. J. Martineau in a most eloquent speech. With reference to the war he said:

For my own part I have no hope for the future of the world from any vague trust in the Providence of God apart from the action and exertion of man (Applause). As far as I can understand, there is no Providence of God for the moral concerns of this world, except through the soul and will of man (Hear). This earth is committed to our care; we stand here stewards of God's bounty and His right; and if we suppose a state of things will be brought about by submission and fear, by consenting—it we refuse to see before us, and expect that something miraculous and supernatural will bring about and restore the right we desire—I believe we shall find ourselves deceived. I am firmly persuaded not merely are our natural, not merely are our intellectual, but our physical forces—God has given us all to be held in trust for these very purposes; and, as we wield that force in the case of the policeman to control the disturbers of society at home, so we are bound to wield it equally in the case of the police of all nations to preserve the law of international right (Loud applause).

The Chairman next gave "Civil and Religious Liberty all the world over; and may England and America, the first to start the problem, work together for its solution."

The Rev. W. H. Channing, from the United States, who was called upon to reply, said it was utterly impossible to do justice to so great a theme. Let them, therefore, bear in mind the old Lancashire proverb—"A maun can do what a maun can, but a maun can't do what a maun can't." After a rapid glance at English history, in which he remarked that "Great Britain had won her three great victories over oppression under the rule of Queens," and that "now when the nation was struggling with the great northern avalanche, and when bristling bayonets were directed to the preservation of European liberty and civilisation, it was a bright omen that the name of the Queen of Great Britain should be Victoria." He alluded in eloquent terms to the necessity and value of England and America co-operating, in working out the problem of civil and religious liberty over all the world. The Chairman had alluded to the great check upon this liberty in the United States by the institution of slavery. He (Mr. C.) would refer to it only in one word. He would honestly confess the wrong—(hear, hear)—and, having done that, would boldly assert his confidence that that great wrong was in process of being righted (Loud cheers). He looked not upon it with a moment's apprehension. The signs of the times were so critical that every true lover of his country might be shortly called hence to do his duty by her; but, assured as he was, a living man, liberty would have slavery banished from the bounds of the great republic (Cheers). Let people but once acknowledge a great wrong, and then earnestly work together to make a common sacrifice for a common right, and America would give an example to the world, higher even than that of Great Britain, for the slaves emancipated by Great Britain were not the slaves of their own soil (Hear, hear). One word more. Having thus frankly confessed the evil which prevented his country from being true to the principles of civil and religious liberty, he would remind his hearers of what Socrates said of the being which was sent as a gadfly on the side of a generous but sluggish horse—he believed that the best friend of Great Britain would admit that the great wrong acting as a gadfly to torment her was pauperism; pauperism! pauperism! (Hear, hear). It had been said by one of the best writers that pauperism was the dry-rot in the edifice of national prosperity (Hear, hear). He would not say that it was the dry-rot, but that it was the work which had to be done. He had spoken of America (Hear, hear)—he would take leave to speak equally his confidence in respect to Great Britain. The time had come when the words of Sydney Smith could be no longer applied to her—"This is a land in which pauperism is infamy;" but when it could be said "This is a land famous for not having a pauper within its limits" (Loud cheers).

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

The following Bills were severally read a third time and passed:—The Stamp Duties Repeal and Degrevs (Oxford) Bill, the Charitable Trusts Bill, the Grants of Lands Bill, the Public Libraries and Museums (Ireland) Bill, the Consolidated Fund (£10,000,000) Bill, and the Spirit of Wine Bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Lord PALMERSTON made a statement on the subject of public business. The Government does not intend to go on this Session with the Juries (Ireland) Bill, the Grand Jury Assessment Bill, the Testamentary Jurisdiction Bill, the Church Discipline Bill, and the Court of Session (Scotland) Bill. It is intended, should the House approve, to read the Education Bills a second time, and to refer them to a Select Committee. There are some bills coming from the Lords which it is intended to press. The more important measures which he hopes to carry are the Colonial Bills, the Tenants Compensation (Ireland) Bill, the Ordnance Board Bill, and the Limited Liability Bills.

THE HANGO AFFAIR.

In answer to Captain Duncombe, Sir CHARLES WOOD stated that he had received the gratifying intelligence from Admiral Dundas that some of the boat's crew at Hango were not killed, and some were not even wounded. The Admiral remonstrated with the Governor of Heligoland on the subject, and received for answer an excuse for the act, stating that the flag of truce was not seen by the troops on shore, and referring to the reports about soundings having elsewhere been taken under flags of truce. On this subject Sir Charles gave a direct contradiction to the report on the authority of the Captain who was said to have taken the soundings of the Kertch Channel. That officer entirely denied having made use of a flag of truce for that purpose, which, he said, was quite unnecessary, as soundings could be taken at any time. He added that five men and the Finnish captain were killed at Hango; that four of our seamen and two Finns were wounded; in all, the three officers, four seamen, and two Finns were taken prisoners. The wounded man who escaped was doing well.

THE SUNDAY-TRADING BILL.

Mr. OTWAY asked whether the Government intended to use its influence with Lord Robert Grosvenor to induce him to withdraw his Metropolitan Sabbath Bill?

Lord PALMERSTON answered that the Government had no desire to interfere in the matter. The House would deal with the bill as it thought best.

THE ATTACK UPON THE REDAN.—LOSS OF THE ENGLISH.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. Francis Scott, was understood to say that the latest telegraphic despatch gave the number of non-commissioned officers and men killed in the recent operations at Hango, the wounded at 1058; officers killed and wounded, 93; in all, killed and wounded, 1295.

REPRESENTATION OF THE CITY.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE asked whether Baron Rothschild had not forfeited his seat in that House by contracting with the Government for the late Loan?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL answered that the question was one rather for the House itself than for him. Should Mr. Duncombe bring forward a motion on the subject, he would be ready to tender his advice.

The House then proceeded to consider the Victoria Government Bill in Committee, and passed all the clauses.

The New South Wales Government Bill, and the Waste Lands (Australia) Acts Repeal Bill, also passed the Committee.

After some conversation it was agreed to defer till Monday next the consideration of the course to be taken with the Education Bill.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

CONDUCT OF AUSTRIA IN RELATION TO THE ALLIED POWERS.

Lord LYNCHURST rose to call the attention of the House to the Treaty of the 2nd December, 1854, and the recent Conference at Vienna with reference to the position of Austria in her relation to the Allied Powers. After a preliminary statement of what he had hoped from Austria (of Prussia he never had any hope), Lord Lynchurst said—I consider the actual position of Austria to be in some degree one of humiliation. The weakness of Austria may be traced to her position—a position which I trace to that lamentable event the partition of Poland, one of the greatest crimes of modern times. By that partition the position of Russia is one of perpetual menace to Germany, and practically as much so to Austria as her position at Sebastopol is one of menace to Turkey. On this account it is clear that Austria runs great risk by taking an open part against Russia; but risks must be incurred when great interests are at stake, nor is it likely the position of Austria will be improved by delay. As regards the past conduct of Austria, I do not feel that we have derived no advantage from it. The large army which she placed in Galicia occupied a corresponding Russian army, but there are symptoms and appearances that lead me to believe that this occupation will not be continued. With respect to Prussia, I believe we owe its support not to the wish of the Government, but to the strong feeling of the people of that country (Hear, hear). With respect to Austria I believe, on the contrary, that the spirit in which the Government has acted has been sincere, earnest, and straightforward, has arisen from a deep sense of the conduct of Russia, and a strong sense of her interest in restraining the ambition of that Power. In June, last year, Austria made a demand upon Russia to evacuate the Principalities. At that time the Russians in the Principalities had suffered severely; their army had been decimated by disease, and had been defeated in several encounters by the Turks; they were pursuing at the time, not very successfully, the siege of Silistria, while the Allied troops were concentrating at Varna; there was a large force of fresh troops at Adrianople; and it was under these circumstances that Austria ventured for the first time to make a demand. Russia refused to acquiesce. She abstained from doing anything for a period of several weeks; and at length, when the siege of Silistria was raised, when the Russian army was in retreat, and when the Russian Government had served notice that she would retire behind the Pruth, and there act on the defensive, then, and not until then, did Austria venture to cross the boundary, and take up her present position in the Principalities. No attempt was made to cross the Pruth after the retreating Russians. The consequence was that the whole of the army of Bessarabia was set free to act against the Allies in the Crimea. Lord Lynchurst, after considering the conduct of the Austrian soldiers in the Principalities, went on to point out that the treaty of December, as understood by the Allies, pledged Austria to concert armed co-operation with the Allies in case the negotiations failed. What occurred at the close of the negotiations? Count Buol declares in precise terms his opinion upon the proposition made by the Allies, and says that it was a proper and reasonable mode of settlement. He further says that the proposals made on the other side by Russia were wholly insufficient. Nothing could be more clear and distinct than these avowals. Russia had, according to the opinion of Count Buol, refused to do that which was reasonable and proper. Austria was, therefore, bound to take active measures. The last proposal of Austria was illusory and absurd, for Turkey had already refused it, and Russia had already refused limitation. Now, my Lords, in what position do we stand? Is the Treaty of the 2nd December binding or not? It reminds one of the sailors' "phantom ship"—this shifting and turning in sight and out of sight. I do not imagine that Austria will enter into an actual treaty of neutrality. But I do believe this, that Austria will have a secret understanding with Russia, and withdraw her forces from the frontier; that Russia will do the same, and thus substantially a state of neutrality will be the result. The only Power which gained any advantage in the late negotiations was Russia, for by expressing her intention of adhering to the two first points she had secured the lesser German States. I don't intend to go into the consideration of the propositions made in the Conference; but I will say this, that in my opinion, and according to the best of my judgment, none of those propositions were worth anything. The proposed reduction of the power of Russia in the Principalities, and the substitution of a weak, fluctuating, and unstable power, which would lead to continual disputes, which in the end would without doubt involve us in fresh wars. The independence of Turkey was the great object of the war as explained by Lord Aberdeen, yet Mr. Gladstone, Sir J. Graham, and their friends, who lately seceded from Lord Aberdeen's Cabinet, had expressed opinions directly opposed to that independence. I do not think that the Government have any business to be engaged in the present negotiations, which, as I have said, will be no policy. The very policy, my Lords, if you had made it plain to the terms proposed, not only would you not have acted as you have done, but you would have said to Russia, "You will have done as you wish in the case of the world. Character is power. Russia would have been in the state. Among the Eastern nations she would have been considered a weak power; no one would have dared to oppose her will. In the West the influence she has acquired in Germany would have increased a hundredfold; the order of the lesser States there would have been reversed, and a severe blow would have been struck against civilisation and freedom. I rejoice, therefore, my Lords, that the terms were not accepted. Now, my Lords, what do I look forward to? I am as sensible as any man can be of the arduous nature of the struggle in which we are engaged, but I feel confident as to the result (Cheers)—not, my Lords, from any vain notion, but on this ground, that, having at the seat of war the command of the sea, we can maintain and support a much larger army than any which can be brought against us (Hear, hear). Under such circumstances I do not fear the result. But, my Lords, what are we to do? I will quote the words of one man of as cool intellect as was ever evinced by a member of this House—I refer to the late Prime Minister. Those words

are material. "I humbly beg to submit, says the noble Earl, "that there be one thing more vital than another to the safety and independence of the Turkish empire, and clearly injurious to the power of Russia, it is the destruction of the fortress of Sebastopol; and that, therefore, the next direct object of the war which every one must have had in view from its very commencement was the attack and destruction of Sebastopol." Lord Lyndhurst then referred to the sufferings of the army before Sebastopol, and condemned the rashness of the expedition—laying all the blame on the Government, who were absent from the metropolis during the most critical periods of the campaign. Can you be surprised at the indignation which was felt by the people at such conduct on the part of the Government? The noble Earl at the head of the Government, with remarkable candour, said he was not surprised at the feelings of the people. If these events had occurred in the time of the ancient Romans, the people would have looked out for a Dictator. In this instance the nation looked out for some eminent statesman—some man of powerful intellect—to retrieve their disasters, and their voice was in favour of the noble Viscount (Lord Palmerston). How far he has satisfied them I cannot say. But I must remind that noble Lord that he who relies upon popular favour rests upon unstable and often dangerous foundations. I must remind him that the people, like children, are apt, after a certain interval, to break the toys which have pleased them for a time, and that nations suffering under disappointments have been known to destroy the idols on which they rested for support and protection; and I would urge upon him that nothing but the greatest vigour and success can maintain him in his position (hear, hear).

The Earl of CLARENDON was not aware of any practical utility in the course which his noble friend had adopted, particularly in the severe censures which he had passed upon the proceedings of Austria. At the same time he was glad to observe that his noble friend who passed those censures had adopted a very different course from that which, during the last two years, he had seen adopted both in Parliament and by the press. He was sorry to say that the course so taken had made us many enemies abroad, particularly in Germany, and had caused a good deal of embarrassment. He agreed that Austria would have better consulted her dignity and interest if she had at first adopted a firmer tone and more decided attitude; but she was a great and independent Power, and we had neither the right nor the means of controlling her policy. It was, however, of the utmost importance to secure her alliance, and he saw nothing to lament in the exertions made for this purpose. But the communications to this end had in no way interfered with or retarded our military or naval preparations. On the contrary, the Duke of Newcastle, long before the Vienna negotiations began, wrote to Lord Raglan in the first week of January, telling him not to relax his efforts, as the negotiations would be accelerated by a vigorous prosecution of the war, and nothing would so much tend to bring them to a successful conclusion as a great military success. He contended there were really no grounds for doubting the sincerity of Austria. She had made great sacrifices by increasing her army, at an expense of no less than £16,000,000 sterling. Another proof of her sincerity was to be found in the letters of congratulation from the Emperor to the Emperor of the French, on the occasion of the Allies' successes in the Crimea. But when the Conference had ended, the Government thought the time had arrived when Austria should be called upon to fulfil her engagement under the Treaty of December. Her answer, however, was that we had not agreed to the other proposals she had made for giving effect to the third basis, and that there were other modes of settling the question. As regarded the position of France and England, they were now disengaged from the late basis of negotiation, and freed from all partial terms connected with them. In any future negotiations they would insist only on such precise terms as they might think most advantageous to themselves and their ally.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH thought the ill-judged expedition to the Crimea had paralysed the natural bias of Austria towards the Allies, by withdrawing from her neighbourhood the forces upon which she might have relied in the event of a rupture with Russia. She was thus forced to adopt a temporising policy.

After some observations from the Duke of Argyll, Lord Denman, the Marquis of Clanricarde, and Earl Granville, the subject dropped.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The House went into Committee on the Metropolis Local Management Bill, the remaining clauses of which were agreed to with amendments. Mr. ROBERTS postponed from the 3rd of July to the 10th his motion founded upon the report of the Sebastopol Committee.

SUNDAY TRADING.

In reply to a question from Mr. Oway, Sir G. GREY said he was not responsible for the Sunday Trading Bill, but he would state his opinion on certain amendments when the bill should again come under the consideration of the House.

In reply to a question from Mr. Massey, Lord R. GROSVENOR said he would press the Sunday Trading Bill, and it would be for the House to adopt it, or otherwise, as it might think proper.

REPRESENTATION OF THE CITY.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE moved "that Mr. Speaker do issue his warrant to the Clerk of the Crown to make out a new writ for the electing of a citizen to serve in this present Parliament for the city of London, in the room of Baron Lionel Nathan de Rothschild, who, since his election for the said city, has entered into a contract for the public service."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL alluded to the case of Mr. D. W. Harvey, who had accepted the office of Registrar of Hackney Carriages, in which the matter was referred to a Select Committee, and advised a similar proceeding in the case of Baron Rothschild, as doubts existed whether contracts for loans were not exceptional. He therefore moved, as an amendment, that the contract entered into by the Baron be referred to a Select Committee to consider and report whether such contract did not render his seat in the House of Commons void.

Mr. WALPOLE seconded the amendment. Sir F. THESSIGER saw no necessity for a Committee, for he did not think that either lawyer or layman could entertain the slightest doubt that Baron Rothschild by accepting the contract had vacated his seat.

Lord J. RUSSELL supported the amendment, and said that many hon. members of that House had contracted for loans without vacating their seats; and this proved that the point was at least doubtful.

Mr. M. GIBSON thought it likely that all the members of that House who had taken parts in the loan were similarly compromised as far as regarded their seats; and, not seeing clearly his way, he would support the amendment.

After some further discussion, Mr. T. DUNCOMBE withdrew his motion, and the amendment was put and agreed to.

THE SUNDAY BEER BILL.

Mr. H. BERKELEY, in moving for a Select Committee to inquire into the Act of last session for further regulating the Sale of Beer and Other Liquors on the Lord's-day, enlarged upon the difficulties which the bill threw in the way of those who sought recreation by leaving town on the Sunday, unless they were clothed in broadcloth and attended by servants. It operated most unfairly against the poor, while the rich were put to no inconvenience whatever. He referred to the contrary decisions come by police magistrates as to the meaning of the bona-fide traveller clause, which he placed in an amusing point of view; and some of those decisions, he said, justified him in saying that no Russian serfs could be worse treated than were licensed victuallers by the tyrannical decisions of the magistrates in such cases. The bill might have checked drunkenness in public-houses, though that was doubtful; but it had increased it in holes and corners, and thus created a greater amount of immorality.

Mr. CORBETT seconded the motion, contending for the necessity of an inquiry, and requesting Mr. W. Patten, who was called the father of the bill, to give a definition of the words "bona-fide traveller."

Sir G. GREY, although he could not agree in all that had fallen from Mr. Berkeley, yet he would give his consent to the inquiry on the part of the Government, thinking it desirable that the conflicting opinions regarding the operation of the bill should be brought to the test, and also that some mode should be devised of settling at rest the conflicting opinions respecting the "bona-fide traveller" clause.

Mr. BRADY had last year warned Mr. W. Patten that the bill would not give satisfaction, and that he would find it impracticable to put a stop to drunkenness by legislation.

Mr. W. PATTEN was favourable to inquiry, and if it could be proved that the bill had increased instead of decreasing drunkenness he would support its repeal.

After some observations from Mr. Wilkinson, Sir J. Walsh, and other honourable members, the motion was agreed to.

EXTENSION OF THE SUFFRAGE.

Major REED moved for leave to bring in a bill for conferring the elective franchise upon persons (not being aliens) who are assessed to the Income-tax, but are not upon a register of electors for any part of Great Britain and Ireland.

UNFAIR TAXATION.

General WYNDHAM brought under the consideration of the House the state of the supply of troop and artillery horses, and the effect of the duties levied on stage-carriages and omnibuses in diminishing the supply of useful and seasoned horses suitable for the Army, and in discouraging the breed of horses generally; and moved that, in the opinion of the House, the laws relating to the assessment of duties on stage-carriages in England, Scotland, and Wales should be modified. He said that the Government had, in some instances, reduced the duty from 14d. to 1d. a mile. Thus, on twenty omnibuses, this reduction was granted to Messrs. Chaplin and Horne, and also to the Messrs. Greenwood, of Manchester, while the rest of the trade were left to the ruin incident upon a hopeless competition against such an overwhelming advantage. The trade asked only to be placed on a footing with their more favoured rivals.

Sir J. SHELLEY, in seconding the motion, dwelt upon the unfair burden of taxation thrown upon stage-carriages, amounting to 15 per cent, as compared with the 2½ per cent paid by railways.

Mr. BROTHERTON said the reduction to the Manchester proprietors was advantageous to the public as well as to the revenue.

Lord R. GROSVENOR complained of the extraordinary proceeding on the part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer of reducing the duty to some parties, while maintaining it as against the trade in general.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER was not aware that the duty operated prejudicially to the breed of horses for the cavalry forces, and contended that the pressure on the stage-carriage trade was not to be attributed to the mileage duty, but to the high price of horses and forage, the competition of steam-boats, and the increase in the number of cabs owing to the reduction of the fares. If he were about to submit a new budget the mileage duty would be entitled to a prominent place in it. The reduction of the duty to one penny would imply a sacrifice of revenue to the extent of £50,000 per annum.

Mr. DISRAELI wanted to know why the right honourable gentleman had modified the tax in Manchester, and had refused to modify it generally?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the Board of Inland Revenue had given the abatement to the Manchester omnibuses because they had to compete with an iron railway.

Mr. WALPOLE indignantly commented upon this proceeding, and hoped upon this ground alone the motion would be agreed to.

Mr. WILSON said the Board of Inland Revenue acted in accordance with a power given them to modify the stage duties in certain cases.

Mr. L. ELLICE, jun., recommended the Chancellor of the Exchequer to agree to the motion.

Lord PALMERSTON said the modifications were made by the Board of Inland Revenue without consulting the Treasury, and, as it was plain the Government would have the assent of the House—(Shouts of laughter)—to the modification of the duty, he would not oppose the motion.

The motion was then agreed to.

Mr. SCHOLEFIELD moved for a Select Committee on the adulteration of food, drinks, and drugs.

Sir G. GREY assented to the motion, which was agreed to.

Mr. J. BUTT obtained leave to bring in a bill to regulate the employment of females and young persons under eighteen in bleaching, finishing, and dyeing works.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The Marquis of BLANDFORD moved the second reading of the Formation of Parishes Bill. A short discussion took place, and ultimately, on the suggestion of Sir G. Grey, the bill was withdrawn.

MAYNOOTH COLLEGE.

The debate, adjourned from May 1st, was resumed by Mr. MAGUIRE, who said it was not the fault of the Catholic members of that House that the debate dragged its slow length along. The hon. member for North Warwickshire had been appealed to to withdraw his motion, but he had refused to do so, and had expressed his determination to go to a division. He thought that, so far from the grant to Maynooth being withdrawn, it should be liberally extended, inasmuch as the college was in a miserably dilapidated condition. So surely as Parliament withdrew the grant, a tremendous agitation would spring up, and down would go the established Church.

Captain STUART considered that, as it was wicked to propagate a religion which he believed to be idolatrous, the House should at once withdraw the grant.

Mr. J. D. STANHOPE brought many charges against the Roman Catholic clergy in reference to their interference with late elections.

Mr. P. O'BRIEN defended the Catholic body from the charge of disloyalty which had been made against it, as well as from the charge of indifference and opposition to the Scriptures. It was idle to suppose that the House would put down Popery in Ireland by withholding the grant.

While the hon. member was speaking the clock pointed to a quarter to six, when the debate was adjourned.

MUSIC.

The eighth and last concert, for this season, of the PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY took place on Monday evening. The programme did not present a single article of novelty, every piece which it contained, vocal and instrumental, being well known to the musical world. Probably the concert (as we have occasion to observe on other occasions) was all the better on this account; for, in the present state of musical composition, no new works appear which approach in excellence the standard productions of earlier times. The symphonies were Spohr's third, in C-minor, and Beethoven's fourth, in B flat; and the overtures were Mendelssohn's "Midsummer Night's Dream" and Weber's "Oberon." Hummel's Piano-forte Concerto in A flat was played with consummate excellence by Pauer. Middle. Emilie Krall sang, in German, the great scena from the "Friedrich," best known by its English words "Before my eyes beheld him." Miss Dolby gave Haydn's pathetic "Spirit Song;" and the two ladies joined in the duet, "Della Mosa," from the "Prophete." The performance of these fine pieces was as admirable as their selection was judicious; and the whole concert was received with every mark of cordial approbation.

At the meeting of the MUSICAL UNION, on Tuesday morning, much interest was created by the appearance of Mrs. Joseph Robinson, a most accomplished young pianist, who performed, with Ernst, Beethoven's beautiful Sonata in F for the Piano and Violin, and charmed everybody present by the brilliant, graceful, and expressive manner in which she executed it. Mrs. Robinson, who was formerly known to the English public by her maiden name of Arthur, made her debut a few seasons ago in Dublin, where she had great success, and soon afterwards became the wife of Mr. Robinson, an eminent musical professor of that city. She has established in Dublin a regular series of classical concerts similar to those of the Musical Union; and has also made herself favourably known by the publication of several very elegant compositions for the pianoforte. At this concert Messrs. Ernst, Cooper, Hill, and Matti performed Spohr's Quartet in E flat, Op. 58, and Beethoven's Quartet in E minor, Op. 59; and Mrs. Robinson played Chopin's Scherzo in B flat minor. The whole concert was of a most refined and classical character, and every piece was warmly applauded by a crowded assemblage. Meyerbeer was present, and on being recognised was greeted with a general burst of applause. The illustrious maestro has arrived in London for the purpose of superintending the rehearsals of "L'Etoile du Nord," which, it is understood, will be produced the week after next.

Stenon Puzzi had his annual benefit on Tuesday evening at the St. James's Theatre, when a miscellaneous concert was followed by the "Barbiere di Siviglia." The concert consisted of well-known Italian and French vocal pieces, sung by Madame Clara Novello, Madame Aneddi, M. Gassier, Signers Bordini, Belletti, and Ciabatta. M. Ascher played, with great execution, a brilliant solo on the pianoforte, of his own composition. The "Barbiere di Siviglia" was performed as at Drury Lane—Madame Gassier being Rosina, Signor Bettini Count Almaviva, and M. Gassier Figaro. The whole entertainments of the evening were received with great favour by a crowded audience.

THE THEATRES, &c.

OLYMPIC.—Mrs. Stirling returned to this theatre on Friday week, having recovered from her long and severe indisposition. She performed *Lady Teale* in the "School for Scandal;" Mr. Wigan giving a new reading of *Joseph Surface*—this once for all, we hope, delivering the character from the mechanical routine of stage personation, and restoring it to that place in human individualities which alike secures its originality and truth. Mr. Robson, as the Jew money-lender, demonstrated how an actor of genius can make a great part of a short one, and throw much variety into a small space. The evening was devoted to Mr. Wigan's benefit; on which occasion a large portion of the pit was converted into stalls, an arrangement that excited a violent demonstration of dissatisfaction among the audience.

HAYMARKET.—We are glad to find that Mr. Buckstone has resolved on conceding to dramatic authorship one of its ancient privileges—that of an "Author's Night." Mr. John Saunders, at Mr. Buckstone's suggestion, will accordingly take his benefit on the 4th July, on which occasion "Love's Martyrdom" will be performed, with the addition of the storm-scene hitherto omitted. In endeavouring to restore the poetic play to the board, authors and managers must resort to first principles. In the days when new dramas were frequent, a long run was seldom realised; nine nights, indeed, were the legitimate and average period, during which the author had his opportunity of recompense. Moderate expectations are the most safely indulged, and the mode of remuneration which gives the public a personal interest in the author's success appears to us one the reintroduction of which is highly desirable.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION AT AMSTERDAM.—The science of photography is now assuming such universal dimensions that we find the large cities and towns on the Continent are following the example set by London in holding their "Expositions Photographiques." At the recent exhibition at Amsterdam we were pleased to remark that M. Claudet and Mr. Maxwell Lyte received each the first-class silver medal, only fifteen of which, and twenty-six in bronze, were awarded amongst the numerous competitors.

THE SILENT MEMBER.—(No. XXIII.)

THE tendency of modern legislation to attempt to make men moral by Act of Parliament has received a check from some proceedings which took place on Sunday last in Hyde-park. A large number of persons belonging to the humbler classes met, professedly, for the purpose of noticing how the higher classes observed the Sabbath; and the assembled crowd uttered discordant yells, by way of protest, as well-dressed persons in private carriages passed along the drive. This proceeding has been praised by some of the papers, on the old principle—or no principle—that one wrong justifies another wrong; and that, if the rich won't let the poor enjoy their Sunday, the poor ought not to let the rich enjoy theirs. This system, if carried out to the utmost, would end in everybody attempting to destroy the happiness of everybody else. Besides its other inconveniences, the plan has the bad effect of punishing the innocent as well as the guilty; for the probability is that the majority of those who were hooted and annoyed on Sunday last were unfavourable to the Sunday Bill, and opposed to restricting the harmless enjoyments of the people in the least degree. The affair is wholesome as an indication of public feeling, but it is not very satisfactory as an indication of popular judgment, though it is probable that by the majority of the working classes the mode adopted for expressing a general opinion will be condemned. "Live and let live" is the maxim usually acted on by the humbler classes in this country, who look with pleasure rather than envy on the gaieties of the rich as long as they have the means of subsistence and very moderate recreation for themselves. It is right that the wealthy should reciprocate this good feeling, and not convert it into an opposite sentiment, by an undue interference with the enjoyments of the people, which are already so limited as to require to be expanded rather than contracted on almost every side.

The Sunday Trading Bill is already unpopular, and not without reason, for it is intended as a piece of class legislation, which will not do in these days. It may be true enough that in some clubs very little wine is sold on Sunday; but there is one law for the rich and another for the poor as long as the member of the club can purchase, if he pleases, what the working man is not able to procure. If the consumption of wine or spirits in clubs on Sundays is insignificant, it is because the members are prevented, by education, from intemperance; and education is the only legitimate remedy for the evil amongst all classes of society. It would seem, from a discussion in the House of Commons on Tuesday evening, that nobody is willing to take the responsibility of the Sunday Trading Bill, though no one with the power to put a stop to it has the courage to come forward and oppose it with such influence as would cause the bill to be thrown out or withdrawn. The Government, which might easily put a quietus on the measure, leaves the House to deal with it; and Lord Robert Grosvenor will not abandon his production, though he shows something of the spirit, or want of spirit, of Frankenstein, in looking on the monster he has made. It is evident, however, that the framers and supporters of the bill have not their hearts in the cause; and, without the moral courage to admit a failure, they have not the confidence necessary to lead to success. It may be expected, therefore, that the obnoxious measure, which is already half-drowned by its parent, and repudiated by its supposed friends, will perish for want of support.

It is strange that the men who are continually engaged in making the laws are frequently found asking the meaning of the laws they have made. It is hardly fair to the Attorney-General to call upon him to tell the House of Commons what it meant by its own acts, when, on the contrary, it should be for the House to declare its own intentions when any ambiguity has arisen. Sir Alexander Cockburn was placed the other night in a rather embarrassing position by being asked to interpret a statute which prohibits a Government contractor from occupying a seat in Parliament. The Act seems clear enough; but an attempt was made to throw on the Attorney-General all the responsibility of saying whether it should be carried out. Scarcely any one denied that the meaning of the Act was obvious; but many honourable members argued that it ought not to be put in force, because it had been for some years neglected. This may or may not be a good reason for repealing it, but can be no reason for allowing it to remain on the Statute-book as a dead letter, to be perused, but not used. No law should be allowed to exist in feebleness if it is not to be put in force. It is obvious that if Acts of Parliament are to remain in abeyance, instead of being repealed, they may be converted by a bad Government into instruments of injustice, by being brought suddenly into operation to serve some particular end. In addition to this objection there is the fear that the laxity manifested in reference to a bad law may be justified in reference to a good law, and it is dangerous, as well as unconstitutional, to allow the Government to have the power of selection as to the laws that are to be disregarded or carried into effect. Let the Legislature, if it pleases, suspend the operation of a law for a given period, or repeal it altogether; but nothing can be more unsatisfactory than to retain in the Statute-book an Act of Parliament that is not intended to be put in operation when the circumstances to which it is applicable happen to arise.

Everybody is talking of the failure of the banking-house whose partners have already appeared at Bow-street, for unlawfully disposing of securities entrusted to them for safe custody. As the affair is *sub judice*, it would not be proper to make the criminal charge the subject of comment, though the newspapers are freely performing the office of a jury without hearing the evidence, and pronouncing the accused guilty of everything—and, indeed, more than everything—with which they stand charged. It may, however, be allowable to suggest that of any parties have received any of the misapplied securities, under circumstances that would have naturally led to suspicion as to the honesty of the transaction, there is as much moral, if not as much legal, guilt in accepting as in transferring the property that has been misapplied. Of course, if the pawning of the securities was thought to be a fair and legitimate transaction, these remarks cannot apply to anybody; but, if a man brings me an article which I think he has no right to pawn or sell, and I either lend money on it or purchase it, I am not much better than himself. As these securities are said to have been parted with and pledged to a frightful extent, it may be worth while in the interest of public justice to inquire whether any of the various parties into whose hands they have fallen had reasonable cause for suspecting that all was not right. The law has a wholesome provision for the punishment of those who are proved to have or to have had possession of property that may be reasonably suspected to have been stolen or unlawfully obtained, and marine-store dealers are constantly being sent to prison for the possession of all sorts of articles that they might have supposed to have been unfairly come by on the part of the persons offering them for sale. Surely the sort of property dealt with by the delinquent bankers should be as much protected as old brass, old iron, or other metal of trifling value; and the marine-store dealers of the moneyed world, if any such there be, should be called upon to show the *bona fides* of their transactions when found in possession of articles of great value that have been dishonestly dealt with by the persons to whom they were confided as a sacred trust. Every calamity has its compensation, of which society gets the benefit, though individuals may suffer. The late lamentable disclosures, and the ruin that has resulted from them, will at all events have the good effect of warning the public against trusting too much to "respectable" appearances; and a still better result will be accomplished if a check is given to a system which is supposed to be rather prevalent, even among men of high standing in the mercantile world, of making advances on goods of which the parties pawning them cannot honestly dispose.



"A CONTRAST."—PAINTED BY A. SOLOMON.—EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.—(SEE PAGE 666.)



"THE LAST DAY OF HARVEST—THE ROMAN CAMPAGNA."—PAINTED BY ALFRED FRIPP.—EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER-COLOURS.—SEE NEXT PAGE.)

"A CONTRAST." BY MR. A. SOLOMON.

FROM THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

MR. SOLOMON has chosen the explanatory motto for his picture of "A Contrast," engraved in our present Number, in these words:—

Will Fortune never come with both hands full?

Such are the poor in health; such are the rich,
That have abundance and enjoy it not.

His picture forms No. 355 of the Middle Room of the present Royal Academy Exhibition, and, much to the discredit of the Hanging Committee, is hung, as we have already had occasion to observe) too much above the line of sight to be seen to ordinary advantage.

His motto very ill explains his picture. It is said, indeed, that he himself had considerable difficulty in determining what name he should give it, and it was not until the last moment that the present title was adopted. It would seem at first sight that a suitable name was a very easy matter. Look at the picture in our Engraving, and see (at first sight) if it is not. How admirably are the two stories told in this well-balanced picture—you see at once what the aim of the artist has been, and how completely he has carried it out. Here we have the pleasures of hope and the pleasure of health, and yet no one name that Mr. Solomon's friends have selected for his adoption suits his picture. But art speaks all languages, and the spectator feels that he does not want words to tell him the story of Mr. Solomon's single contribution to the Academy.

If Mr. Solomon failed in satisfying the Hanging Committee of the Academy that his picture possessed merits that demanded a better recognition at their hands, he has not failed in satisfying Mr. Ruskin that his picture merited a better position on the walls of the Academy. "It is difficult," writes Mr. Ruskin, "to see this picture, at the height at which it is placed; but it seems to me better than most of its class in the rooms; and the face of the invalid is very beautiful."

Mr. Solomon is a young, conscientious, and promising painter, of whom England has every reason to be proud. He does not set about a picture as if he were undertaking an easy matter, a mere holiday task. It is easy to see that he is telling a story that he has weighed well, and that every part is the result of careful consideration harmoniously adjusting itself to the whole of the composition. He has looked on nature (there is no doubt of this) with a scrutinising eye; is too honest and painstaking to trust to a retentive memory; but places himself before the very things he is anxious to represent. The distant sea of the picture is exquisitely truthful, and the very breeze that passes over the foreground seems to be adding fresh colour to the cheeks of the beautiful invalid, who looks with hope at the healthy faces and active figures of the group of fish-girls that support the right of the composition. Here, in Mr. Solomon's "Contrast," is a picture that will stand the test of Mr. Christie's hammer.

"THE LAST DAYS OF HARVEST—THE ROMAN CAMPAGNA."—BY ALFRED FRIPP.

FROM THE OLD WATER-COLOUR SOCIETY.

THE Bristol people are fond (and with reason) of the Friggs. The merchant princes of the west, who neglected Savage and Chatterton, and suffered Bird of Bristol to pass from among us with very little encouragement, are properly and penitently proud of Mr. Baily, the sculptor of "Eve," and of Alfred and George Fripp, of the Old Society of Painter in Water-Colours. And Bristol has every reason to be proud of the Friggs, ornaments as they most unquestionably are to our English School of Water-Colour Art.

During the last year Mr. George Fripp has been in Essex and Argyllshire, but Mr. Alfred Fripp has extended his range of study, and sought subjects with success in Rome. It is with the latter, however, that we have this week to deal.

Mr. Alfred Fripp has sent five contributions to the Old Water-Colour Society:—1. "A Vegetable-seller—Rome;" 2. "Going Home—Woman from the Mountains of Subiaco;" 3. "The Vintage, a Sketch;" 4. "Peasants of Olevano Returning from Labour;" and 5. "The Last Days of Harvest—The Roman Campagna." The latter we have engraved for our paper of this week.

The names of these five pictures suggest at once to the many admirers of Mr. Alfred Fripp the peculiar excellences they are likely to possess. All are masterly in point of conception and execution, and all provide for a comparison in the same line of art with the productions of Mr. P. Williams and Mr. Thomas Uwins. Mr. Fripp fully maintains his name for excellence with the two favourites with whom he must necessarily be compared. If anything, Mr. Fripp has a superiority over his predecessors in point of freedom of execution. He is no timid artist. It is not necessary to tell Mr. Fripp, what Vandeyck was fond of insisting as absolutely necessary, "Be bold—be bold."

DEAD LARK, IN RELIEVO LEATHER-WORK.

IN THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of July 3, 1852, we drew attention to the novel and ingenious accomplishment occupying the attention of ladies in the fashionable circles, of modelling in leather; and we engraved a very elegant specimen of this elaborate fancy work, in the form of a bracket, ornamented with vine-leaves and grapes. We explained in our notice of this tasteful bracket that the relievo leather-work could be applied to picture-frames, baskets, fire-screens, vases, and, in fact, to every kind of article imitative of the most finished wood-carving; but we certainly did not anticipate that the artist who executed this bracket could have attained the perfection she displays in a Dead Lark, now on view at Messrs. Banting and Son's, 27, St. James's-street.

This bird—the whole of which has been cut, carved, and chiselled out of leather—has won the admiration, not only of the fairer portion of the creation, but also of eminent artists, who have pronounced it to be a superior work of art. The lark is extended on the back lifelike on a mound, with wings outstretched, and the feet and legs drawn up from the last struggle. The pose is remarkably effective, and the artist has evidently closely copied nature in the attitude. What particularly strikes every observer is the accuracy with which every minute feather is depicted. The mound, which is also composed of leather, equally attracts attention, by the correct and finished details in the fern-leaves, ivy, &c. There is another attractive evidence of the relievo leather-work, by the same clever artist—namely, a Roman Bacchanal chariot, with a group of fruit, consisting of a pine, grapes, apple, filberts, ornamented with vine-leaves, to be seen at Dalton's, in Bathbone-place, showing the variety of ways in which this most useful accomplishment can be applied. The relievo leather-work of the present day is, however, by no means a modern invention; it is simply a resuscitation of the most ancient mode in which women employed their time. The dried and did skins of animals were used in the construction of the Tabernacle, and leather modelling is referred to frequently in Holy Writ. The Egyptians were well acquainted with the art, as may be perceived at the British Museum, where figures in embossed leather, supposed to be the oldest in existence, and dating more than 500 years before Christ, will be found in the Egyptian Room. The Dead Lark is well worthy the inspection of every lady with "nimble fingers" who desires to apply leather modelling to ornamentation and decoration.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN AND HER MINISTERS.—In the Privy Council held yesterday at Aranjuez the Duke de la Victoria spoke very seriously to the Queen respecting her wish to go to La Granja, expressing his regret that she should continue to take counsel of others than her constitutional advisers—of persons by whose machinations her throne and even her life had been endangered, and said that it was the decided opinion of her Ministers that she ought not to go to La Granja. The Queen urged the health of her child, and declared that that alone was what she thought of, but that she knew it had been said she intended its escape from La Granja. The reply to this was, that the welfare of the nation was to be considered even before that of the Princess, that the Ministers knew very well that her Majesty had no such intention as that which she believed to have been attributed to her, but that Espartero's desire for her safety rendered him most averse to be separated from her by so great a distance as that from La Granja to Madrid—which latter place it is, of course, out of the question that he should at present leave. These are the principal points of what passed upon that subject. The result is, that the Queen is expected in Madrid this evening at six o'clock. It is not probable that she will remain here all the summer, but will probably seek refuge from the great heat (when it comes) at the Pardo, which is but two leagues off. Under present circumstances it is here generally considered that it would have been highly imprudent and improper that she should be allowed to take up her residence at a place comparatively so remote as La Granja.—*Letter from Madrid, June 18.*

The former Ministers of Russia at London and Paris, Baron Brunnow and M. de Kisseleff, are about to receive a new mission. The former, it is said, will be the accredited representative of Russia at Hesse-Darmstadt and to the Frankfurt Diet; M. Kisseleff will go to Rome and Florence, replacing M. de Boutenich, who returns to Russia as a Member of the Council of the Empire.

HOAXES ON 'CHANGE.

PERHAPS the mere fact of the construction of a line of telegraph three thousand miles long would not now-a-days be a subject of very great wonder; it is the circumstance of this mode of communication having become an indispensable adjunct to the prosecution of such a war as we are engaged in that excites our astonishment. Before we were six months old in the mighty struggle, we found it impossible to get on without calling to our aid the two most remarkable inventions of modern times—the railway and the telegraph; and the facility with which both were constructed, the enterprise and perseverance which first planned and then carried them into execution afford a bright example of the ability of the Western world.

In a few hours we learn what is taking place at the seat of war, and we are thus placed in a position promptly to meet any difficulty, or supply a want, or take advantage of a success. But we fancy there is another good it will produce—and that is the annihilation of that system of political hoaxing so rife during the period of the last war. Looking at the slow means of communication, and the difficulty of obtaining intelligence at that time, and comparing it with the almost instantaneous flash by which it can reach us now-a-days; considering, moreover, that the Government has it in its power to verify every item of news which reaches it through the medium of a cipher known only to those in authority; looking, too, at all the precautions that have been and will be taken to prevent imposture, we may hope that the days of this species of hoaxing are fairly at an end, and that we have only now to recur to them as the curiosities of a past age. The electric telegraph, therefore, we repeat, will produce this subsidiary benefit; it will, no doubt, effectually destroy those opportunities for coining false intelligence, which, in a moment, made one man's fortune, and marred another's, and which oftentimes puzzled both the Government and the people, leading them to doubt even the truth, when the truth came.

This species of lying grew at one period into a perfect science: schemes were planned with all the dramatic sequence of a well-constructed comedy, in which the actors were often as numerous as in a stage play, and the parts they had to perform as various; and of which "men in high places" did not sometimes disdain to be the authors, dividing their *droits d'auteur*—or, more properly speaking, the spoil—with subordinates of the lowest stamp. False news was frequently concocted by members of Parliament; forged letters from abroad were handed about, or inserted in the newspapers, with a view to propagate some fiction; and every art was practised to obtain the first inkling of any news, whether true or false. The servants of men in office were said to be in the pay of the great speculators in the Funds, and even the wives of Ministers were supposed to have been the willing instruments, for "value received," of those to whom a piece of false intelligence was worth thousands.

The most favourite fiction was the rumour of the death of Bonaparte. In 1804 a despatch was received by the Prime Minister, Lord Grenville, giving an account of his assassination by one of the wild chiefs of the Desert, and detailing the circumstances with all the minuteness of the most perfect narrative. The chief, it was said, had professed attachment to him, until an opportunity offered, when, on a signal being given, numerous tribes had set upon Napoleon and his followers, and cut them to pieces. This flimsy story remained current for a considerable time, owing, of course, to the want of ready communication, and the impossibility, therefore, of its being speedily contradicted or confirmed; church bells were set ringing for joy; no doubts were entertained as to the authenticity of the story; and the Funds rose proportionally. The originators of the forged despatch were never publicly declared, nor does a thorough inquiry seem to have been pressed; it was merely hinted at the time that they were "two State speculators" and one or two "members of the Lower House." On one occasion (1805) Lord Moira, a member of the Cabinet during Lord Grenville's Administration, was definitely accused of using his official information for the purpose of speculating in the Funds. His accuser was a clerk in the Bank of England; but it does not appear that he was able to substantiate his allegation; and the matter dropped, after having excited considerable attention.

The frequency with which the game was played of reporting the death of Napoleon Bonaparte naturally induces an expression of wonder that so stale a trick came at last to be believed at all, or to have the slightest effect upon the Funds. Yet we find it the stock piece of intelligence up to almost the last year of the war. Early in 1814 large purchases were made in Consols and Omnium for the *Account*—that is to say, for a future settling day. The persons making these purchases were not known to the brokers as speculators, having been purposely selected for that reason. The first act of the drama having been thus performed, it only remained to proceed to the second. Accordingly, one morning, there landed at Dover from an open boat some persons wearing the uniform of "French officers" (so the story goes, though way dressed as French officers we do not clearly see), who immediately proceeded to an inn there, and ordered a post-chaise and four to be got ready, that they might proceed to London with the utmost dispatch. They *accidentally* fell full the purport of their mission, which was to communicate the death of Bonaparte. The news spread like wildfire; some persons rushed to the semaphore station, near Dover, with the intention of having the news telegraphed to London; but the day happened to be very foggy, and it was found impossible to transmit the important intelligence to the next station. This failure in the working of the telegraph was a severe blow to the schemers, who had calculated upon its conveying the story not only with celerity, but clothed with all the semi-authority of an official mode of communication. They therefore started at once in the post-chaise and four, dashing into the towns at every stage of their journey, with all the appearance of the utmost dispatch, ordering fresh horses with the greatest *empressement*, and dropping hints as they passed, of the astounding particulars they were carrying to head-quarters. In this way they reached the suburbs of London, when the drivers were ordered to stop, the pseudo French officers got out of the chaise, and, after dismissing it, walked quietly to a lodging close by to divest themselves of their masquerade. Their part in the drama had been played, and those who had originated the scheme had therefore merely to watch the effect of their plans.

In a short time the news of the death of Bonaparte reached the Stock Exchange, and, like the snowball—*vires acquirit eundo*—the story had lost nothing in detail from the distance it had travelled. Numerous particulars came to be added to the original bare *fact*, until almost every man was ready to vouch for each minor detail of his version, and to contribute his quatum of "further intelligence," and "latest news." The Funds rose, as a matter of course, but not so rapidly or so high as the plotters of the trick had reason to calculate upon, considering that, during the latter part of Bonaparte's career, prices frequently varied from 8 to 10 per cent in an hour. Some of the more prominent dealers in the market doubted the authenticity of the report, and hung back accordingly. Nevertheless, the stock which had been bought for the speculation was sold out at a good profit before the falsehood of the report was discovered. When it

In the rapidity of obtaining intelligence private enterprise has always managed to outstrip the Government. One would naturally suppose that, with all the means and appliances at the beck of a department of the Administration, whatever was desired could be done more effectively than it could possibly be within the scope of an individual to achieve. Yet such has never hitherto been the case; and in the conduct of the present war we have seen instances in which both time and money might have been saved by entrusting to the enterprise of individuals what a Government failed to effect. During the last war it was surely within the power of a Ministry, by paying liberally, to acquire the earliest information;

and yet, it is said, that Rothschild knew of the victory at Waterloo *some days* before it was made public; and in July, 1830, he was the first to announce the Paris Revolution to Lord Aberdeen.

The man who, perhaps the earliest, saw the advantage and profit to be derived from immediate intelligence of events, was Sir Henry Furness, a Director of the Bank of England in the time of William III. He established a complete train of communication throughout the Continent; and, in his means of intelligence, and his modes of operating on the Money-market, he may be said to have been the pattern which Rothschild followed at a more distant period. Yet even Furness, with all his means of correct information, very often acted on, or promulgated, false news; and, it is said, the temptation to gain not unfrequently led him into insinuating the fiction first, that he might afterwards profit by the publication of the truth when he chose to let it out.

In the reign of Anne, Medina, a Jew of great wealth, was one of those who spent immense sums in gaining intelligence from abroad. Not content with maintaining agents or correspondents in various places, he himself accompanied Marlborough in all his campaigns, and actually paid to the avaricious Duke (who was proverbially greedy of money) £6000 per annum for the permission; repaying himself by transmitting, express, the first news of any victory, or other circumstance of importance. His profits must certainly have been enormous to have sanctioned so great a cost.

In many of the hoaxes played by speculators in the Funds, there appears very great similarity; as though either the subject would not permit of great variety, or the wit of the schemers was infertile in novel expedients. During times of political excitement, and especially during a struggle between contending dynasties, or a war between nations, the rumour sought to be promulgated commonly related to the sudden capture, or death, of the chief opponent in the contest. Thus, we have already remarked what a favourite scheme was the report of the death of Bonaparte; and, in like manner, during the memorable outbreak in 1715, the news of the taking of the unfortunate Stuart was every now and then, the grand *pièce de résistance* on which the cheats of "the Alley" hoped to found their fortunes. Nor was there anything very novel, or particularly ingenious, in the mode of carrying out some of these pretences. On one occasion, a carriage containing four persons is seen proceeding at a great pace towards the seaport of Montrose; but, before reaching there, while halting for a short time at a small town, the carriage is surrounded by officers and soldiers of the King's troops, and after a slight show of resistance the travellers are arrested, and conveyed on their way towards London. Of course the news flies rapidly—as rapidly as it could fly in those times—that the Pretender, attempting to escape, after his late disasters, by embarking at Montrose, has been intercepted, and is now a prisoner, *en route* for the Tower. The originators of the trick, and the actors in the little interlude, reaped a sufficient harvest in the Stock-market—delighted, of course, at the success of their stratagem.

Sometimes the false intelligence promulgated would be the rumour of a peace, or a declaration of war with some State not already engaged in the then almost universal turmoil. Sometimes a Prime Minister had just died suddenly; occasionally the King was taken seriously ill, or a Cabinet had been dismissed. Some months after the hollow, and to this country ignoble, truce of Amiens, the public mind was in the greatest state of suspense as to the probability of the war again breaking out. The people in the City, therefore, were proportionately pleased when, one morning, in May, 1803, they observed the following notice posted outside the Mansion-house:—"Lord Hawkesbury presents his compliments to the Lord Mayor, and has the honour to acquaint his Lordship that the negotiation between this country and the French Republic is brought to an amicable conclusion."

The notice was a fabrication; the concoctors of it, however, "took nothing by their motion," as, although they succeeded in raising the price of the Funds, and making a great (nominal) profit on their operations, yet the whole of the bargains being declared void they realised nothing.

The latest hoax played was the "Tartar hoax" of the "taking of Sebastopol," and we trust it will be the last! That men who would recoil with a becoming horror from the commission of any act of "recognised" dishonesty should nevertheless, without scruple, embark in schemes which are indefensible under any phase of the most lax code of morality, is certainly surprising. We could not, perhaps, have hoped for any amelioration or extinction of the system so long as the temptation to gain by it existed, and the difficulties against a rapid mode of communication were in full force; but now that the Government has a controlling power over the means of acquiring intelligence, and those means cannot be surpassed by private speculation, we may conclude that political hoaxes are among the category of things "that have been," or must necessarily become very, very infrequent.

THE ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.—On Monday the Royal Medical Benevolent College, at Epson, was opened by his Royal Highness Prince Albert, who was accompanied by the Prince of Wales. The nature and purposes of this institution have already been explained and an illustration of the building given in this Journal (June, 1853). It may, therefore, suffice to repeat that it is destined for the reception of decayed medical men and their widows, and the education of their children. The building, of which only a portion is completed, is one of large dimensions, pleasantly situated on a rising ground, about a mile from the town of Epson. At about a quarter to four his Royal Highness Prince Albert, preceded by Earl Manvers, the president of the institution, and accompanied by several gentlemen of his suite, arrived, and was received by the company with loud cheers. His Royal Highness having entered the building, the ceremony of inauguration was gone through. The Bishops of Winchester, Oxford, and St. Asaph, with Lord Ebrington and other members of Parliament, took part in the proceedings. The ceremony being brought to a close, the Prince adjourned to the large hall of the building, where the general company, passing in review before him, and the ladies, handed in their five-guinea purses. The Prince departed about a quarter-past five, amidst loud cheers, the band of the Royal Marines, which had been in attendance throughout the day, playing the National Anthem. A large portion of the company then adjourned to a very spacious marquee, where an elegant déjeuner was served by Mr. Englefield, who did all in his power to give satisfaction, when Earl Manvers, the members of the council, and others who had been to see the Prince off the grounds, entered the tent; and the noble Earl, as president of the institution, took the chair—the Bishop of St. Asaph saying grace. At the close of the déjeuner a variety of toasts were drunk and speeches made; after which the greater part of the company adjourned to the hall, dancing commenced, and was kept up with spirit until dusk. We ought to add, that owing to some want of proper arrangements very great dissatisfaction was expressed by many of the company at the way in which the déjeuner was managed.

THE CORN TRADE IN THE PRINCIPALITIES.—A great crisis is feared to be impending in the commercial world here. The principal trade in these Principalities is in cereals. But our grain merchants are threatened with utter ruin; for, as they are unable to export, not only do the capitals they have invested in the purchase of corn remain unproductive, but they run the risk of losing the grain itself, for there is such an accumulation of it in the ports of Braila and Galatz that the magazines cannot receive the whole, and much of it is left in the open air, and begins to be damaged. Vessels dare not enter the Danube in search of cargoes at Braila and Galatz. It is true that within the last few days they have begun to show themselves, and already about 400 may have reached these ports, almost all of them under Greek and Austrian flags; but not above 10 are taking in cargo, for they are only allowed to load for the ports from which they have sailed—viz., for Austrian or Greek ports. It is estimated that there are at present 400,000 kilos of corn at Braila, and 300,000 at Galatz. The kilo contains 400 okas—each oka being about 3 lb. English. The prices current are:—1st quality, 135 to 140 piasters per kilo at Bucharest, and 140 at Braila. The kilo of maize is from 70 to 75 piasters at Bucharest, and 100 to 102 at Braila. The kilo of barley sells at from 60 to 65 piasters. For 650 okas of hay 63 piasters are paid at Bucharest, and 40 in the rural districts. The Walachian piaster is worth about 3d. English. The quantity of hay in the Principalities is excessive, great part of the cattle having perished in consequence of the Russian and Austrian occupations.—*Letter from Bucharest, June 8.*

GOVERNMENT OFFICES.—A movement is on foot for obtaining the permission of the Government to close their offices at one o'clock on Saturday, so as to give the clerks in their service advantages similar to those which are accorded by most of the leading merchants in the city of London. The practice sought to be established has for some time past prevailed in the Audit-office, and has been found to be productive of no inconvenience or delay to public business.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

THE talk about the mob in Hyde-park on Sunday last has taken a literary and antiquarian turn. There was a mob of a somewhat similar character in St. James's-park just a century ago. The Mall was then the fashionable part of London, and walking, or rather sauntering, was then the polite amusement. Now Hyde-park is the centre of fashion, and a chariot and pair the perfection of female happiness. A young lady reminds us that there is a passage in the letters of Horace Walpole very much to the point:—"My Lady Coventry and my niece Waldegrave," he writes to his friend Montagu, June 23, 1759, "have been mobbed in the Park. I am sorry the people of England take all their liberty out in insulting pretty women." . . . "Only remember," says our fair friend to whom we are indebted for the reference, "the Countess of Coventry and the Countess of Waldegrave were the two leading beauties of that time. Who has not heard of Maria Gunning and Maria Walpole?"

Another lady (and this is a matter in which ladies have been unnecessarily mixed up) has called our attention to a second illustration of the mobbing scene in St. James's-park to which Walpole has thus cursorily referred. The beautiful Countess of Coventry was not to be stopped in her Sunday's walk upon the Mall. She must be protected from the mob, and in a most extraordinary fashion did King George II. give orders for her protection. We must suffer the story to be told in the very words of the time. It is thus Mr. Jenkinson writes to George Grenville:—

The only particular that is worth sending you is a very silly action of Lady Coventry, who, having been insulted in the Park, Sunday was night, the King heard of it, and said that to prevent the same for the future he would have a guard. Upon this foundation her Ladyship ventured boldly again into the Park on Sunday evening, but she was attended by two sergeants of the Guards in front, with their halberds, and no less than twelve followed her. The whole guard was ready to have turned out if there had been occasion, and the Colonel of the Guard in waiting kept at the proper distance. With this ridiculous parade she walked there from eight of the clock to ten; and as all this could not prevent the mob from having curiosity, some impertinent things were still uttered, though at some little farther distance, and some of Fielding's men that attended took up the most troublesome.

Here is a picture for Mr. Frith, or some other artist in his pleasant line of art. We hope we shall see no Duchess driving on Sunday with a guard of honour before and behind, or a second scene enacted in Hyde-park like that which took place last Sunday.

Booksellers and printers have managed for a time to maintain the undue interest they possess in the Royal Literary Fund. The meeting (to which we called attention) was, as far as voting goes, a triumph of the Row and Albemarle-street over Bulwer and Dickens. The Committee mustered to a man, and the booksellers and printers assembled thicker than authors. As one looked round the room it was easy to see that the "whip-in" had been carefully and successfully done by the Committee, and poorly done, if not altogether neglected, by the New Charter party. The Committee (taught a lesson by the previous meeting) determined not to be caught napping; and the New Charter party went to work evidently in the belief that the day was theirs. Most grievously were they mistaken. Mr. Milnes (whose interest in the welfare of men of letters no one can doubt) moved an ingenious amendment, which the Bishop of Oxford backed up in a speech—in no other way to the point than that it caught the majority of his hearers. Pious publishers and printers enjoyed immensely the prelate's belief that authors cared little about tea—in short, that authors could not exist otherwise than with the best of the good things of the earth before them. As the right reverend Prelate chuckled over this imaginary condition of authors, it was easy to imagine that his Lordship had little thought of the condition of his curates. The Bishop of Oxford would not build a rectory, because, forsooth, every clergyman should possess a Cuddesden. The speech to every author in the room was extremely painful.

Authors lost, but there was a kind of tacit understanding, not very gracefully surrendered by the Committee, that the Old Charter should be construed hereafter in a larger sense, and that loans and annuities would be granted in accordance with the opinion of Mr. Willes, the learned counsel of the New Charter party, who had given his opinion against the learned counsel of the Committee, Mr. Serjeant Merewether. It is particularly due to the Bishop of Oxford to state that his opinion went with that of Mr. Willes. It is more than time that the Committee should be reformed. We saw in the room, among the authors not on the Committee, Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Mr. Dickens, Mr. Forster, Mr. Ford, Mr. Sterling, Mr. Oxenford, and others of note; while on the Committee we saw hardly anybody of literary reputation. The fact is the literary composition of the Committee was admirably represented by the chairman chosen by the Committee—Mr. Benjamin Bond Cabbell—a good, well-meaning subscriber to many funds; but for an author his pretensions are even less than Lord Lansdowne's, whose letters threatening that he would resign the Presidency, if the resolution were carried, savoured too much of dictatorship.

People interested in this really interesting subject to men of letters are talking of the hint which Sir Bulwer Lytton let fall in his speech—that the money of the Guild of Literature and Art (some £5000) would be handed over to the fund should the resolutions be carried. As Lord Lansdowne's letter was a threat, this half-promise of Sir Edward on behalf of his friends was a kind of bribe. The threat told; the bribe had no effect.

Mr. Gordon Cumming is about to turn lecturer in the manner of Mr. Albert Smith. For this purpose he has taken the Salle Robin at the top of the Haymarket. He is to commence immediately.

Mr. Faed's "Mitherless Bairn," to which we introduced our readers in our Journal of June 9, is about to be engraved in a style and size commensurate with its many merits. Mr. Graves has bought the copyright, and on these conditions, that it is to be rendered either in line by Mr. R. Graves, A.E.R.A., or in mezzotint by Mr. Atkinson.

Mr. Joseph Hunter, whose knowledge of English topography and of English biographies is in every respect so remarkable, will be the new Vice-President of the Society of Antiquaries, vacant by the death of Viscount Strangford. Mr. Hunter's steady adhesion to the Society will do much to extend its usefulness.

The Cathedral Commissioners in their Report just presented to Parliament recommend (most properly) that periodical visitations should be made to our Cathedrals by persons of high architectural knowledge, deeming it worthy of serious consideration whether some such provision may not be necessary with a view to the preservation of the Cathedrals according to the original designs of those who built them. This periodical visitation will include the approval of all monuments to be hereafter erected in any of the Cathedrals. Architects want as much looking after as sculptors or churchwardens.

The secretary to the new Civil Service Commission is Mr. James Spedding, the unsparring castigator of Lord Campbell's "Life of Lord Chancellor Bacon," and one of the editors of the forthcoming edition of Bacon's works. The selection is in every way satisfactory.

Accounts from Constantinople state that a loan is to be contracted by the Western Powers on account of Turkey, to the extent of £4,000,000. The general impression is that one half of this will be raised in London under the guarantee of the English Government, and the other half in Paris by the French Government.

The Prussian Government is looking well to its arms. Orders have been given to convert as speedily as possible 280,000 weapons of the old system into Minie rifles. As soon as this is accomplished 600,000 others are to be altered after the same fashion. A mechanic in Zelle has taken a contract binding himself to deliver 120,000 rifle-sights within a year.

CHESS.

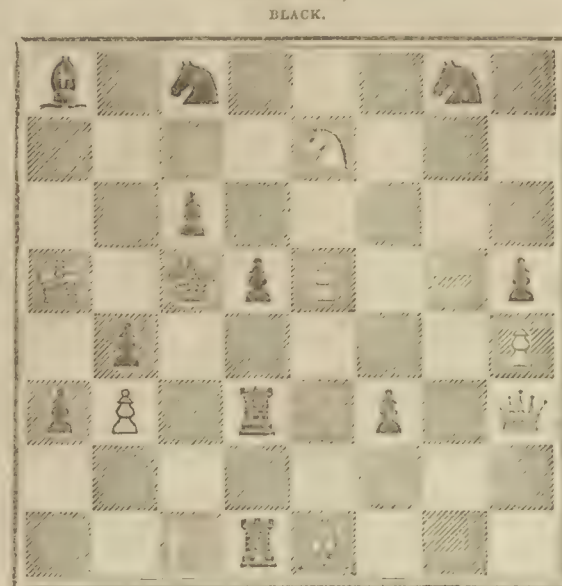
Our customary Notices to Chess Correspondents are unavoidably postponed.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 592.			
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1. P to K 4th	P takes P (best)	2. Q takes R P (ch)	P takes Q
2. Q to Q B 2nd	K takes R (a)	3. R to K 4th	R takes P
3. R to K 4th (ch), and then the Queen mates.			

PROBLEM No. 593.

By HEIR J. BAYER, of Vienna.

(For this fine and difficult piece of strategy we are indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Falkbeer.)



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in five moves.

CHESS IN THE METROPOLIS.

The following smart little game has just been played between M. FALKBEER, the Austrian Professor, and M. DE RIVIERE, of Paris, while en route for the Leinster meeting. This game is lively and pleasant enough in itself, but it derives additional interest from being the first played between these eminent combatants.

(Gioco Piano.)

WHITE (Mr. F.)	BLACK (M. de R.)	WHITE (Mr. F.)	BLACK (M. de R.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th	21. Q takes B	K R to K R 2nd
2. K Kt to K B 3rd	Q Kt to Q B 3rd	22. P to K B 4th	P takes K P
3. K B to Q B 4th	K B to Q B 4th	23. Kt takes P	Q to her 4th
4. Castles	P to Q 3rd (a)	24. P to K R 3rd	B to K B 4th
5. P to Q Kt 4th (b)	B takes Q Kt P	25. Kt to K Kt 3rd	B takes K R P (c)
6. P to Q B 2nd	B to Q B 4th	26. P takes B	P to K R 5th
7. P to Q 4th	P takes P	27. K R to K 5th	Q to her 3rd
8. P takes P	K B to Q Kt 3rd	28. K R to K Kt 5th	R takes R
9. Q B to Q Kt 2nd	Q B to K Kt 5th	29. P takes R	P takes Kt
10. K B to Q Kt 5th (d)	P to K R 3rd	30. Q to K 3rd	R to Q Kt 7th
11. K B to Q R 4th	K to B sq (e)	31. R to K sq	Q to Q B 3rd
12. K R takes Kt	P takes B	32. Q to her 2nd	R takes R
13. Q Kt to Q 2nd	P to Q 4th	33. Q takes R	Q to Q B 3rd (ch)
14. Q to Q B 2nd (f)	Kt to K 2nd	34. Q takes R	Q takes Q Kt P
15. K R to K sq	K to Kt sq	35. Q to K 5th (ch)	K to R 2nd
16. K Kt to K 5th	P to K R 4th	36. Q takes K R P	P to Q B 3rd
17. Kt takes Q B P	Kt takes Kt	37. Q to K B 3rd	Q to her 4th
18. Q takes Kt	K B to Q R 4th (g)	38. Q takes Q	P takes Q
19. B to Q B 3rd	K R to B 3rd	39. Q takes P	
20. Q to Q B 5th	B takes B	40. K takes P	

And after a few more moves the game was resigned as drawn.

(a) The "Handbook" gives the subjoined variation as the consequence of Black's playing 4. K Kt to K B 3rd:—

4. K Kt to K B 3rd	K Kt to K B 3rd	7. P to Q 4th	R to Q Kt 3rd
5. K R to K sq	Castles	8. Kt to Kt 3rd	R to K 2nd
6. P to Q B 3rd	K R to K sq		White has the better game.

(b) This brings about the well-known Evans's opening.
(c) K Kt to K B 3rd is preferable. By playing the Bishop, thus, Black subjected himself to considerable difficulty, if not danger.
(d) An embarrassing move.
(e) He was compelled to play the King or do worse; for White threatened to push forward his Queen with terrible effect and force.
(f) We should have preferred playing B to Q R 3rd, checking, and then moving the Q to her B 2nd.
(g) A very good move, gaining Black important time, and causing the attack to change hands completely.
(h) Had he played the very natural move of K R to Q B 3rd, it would have cost him the game, since White would have taken the Bishop with his Kt, winning at least a Piece.

CHESS IN PARIS.

A spirited skirmish between M. DE RIVIERE and M. SCHULTEN.

(Sicilian Opening.)

BLACK (M. S.)	WHITE (M. de R.)	BLACK (M. S.)	WHITE (M. de R.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th	20. Q R P takes P	Q R P takes P
2. K B to Q B 4th	P to K 3rd	21. P takes P	P takes P
3. P to K 5th	Q Kt to Q B 3rd	22. K Kt to Q 4th	P to K R 4th
4. K Kt to K B 3rd	Kt to K 2nd	23. P to K 6th	Kt takes P
5. P to Q Kt 3rd	Q Kt to Q R 4th	24. K Kt to K 5th	Q to her B 2nd
6. Q B to Q Kt 2nd (a)	Kt takes B	25. Q Kt takes K R P	P to Q 5th
7. P takes Kt	Q to her Kt 3rd		
8. Q to Q B sq (b)	Kt to K B 4th	26. K Kt to Q B 4th	K R to K R sq
9. Q Kt to Q B 3rd	Q to Q B 3rd	27. K R takes P (ch)	Q takes Kt
10. Q Kt to K 2nd	K B to K 2nd	28. Kt to K Kt 3rd	K B to Q 3rd
11. Castles	P to K Kt 4th	29. Kt to K 4th	K B to Q Kt 3rd
12. Q Kt to K Kt 3rd	Kt to K R 5th (c)	30. P to Q B 3rd	Kt to K B 5th
13. K Kt to K sq (d)	P to Q Kt 3rd	31. Q to her Kt sq	P to Q 6th
14. K B to Q K 5th	Q B to Q Kt 2nd	32. P to Q B 4th	Kt to K 7th (ch)
15. P to K B 3rd	Castles (Q's side)	33. K to R sq	Q to Q B 2nd
16. P to Q R 4th	K R to K Kt sq	34. P to K B 4th	R takes K R P (ch)
17. P to K R 3rd	Kt to K B 4th	35. P takes R	B takes Kt (ch)
18. P to Q R 5th	Kt to K Kt 2nd	36. K to K R 2nd	Q takes K B P (ch)
19. Q Kt to K Kt 2nd	P to Q 4th	37. R takes Q	B takes R

CHECKMATE.

(a) Q Kt to Q R 3rd would, perhaps, have been better.
(b) Was not this a needless precaution? Why not have played out the Q Kt? If White had then taken the Bishop, he would have gained a loss, we fancy. For suppose—
8. Q Kt to Q B 3rd Q takes B
9. Q R to Q Kt sq Q to Q R 6th
Black may win the K Rook, or play his K Kt to K Kt 5th, or take the Q Kt P with his Q Rook—in any case having a superior game to his antagonist.
(c) An odd-looking move, but one not without purpose.
(d) A little examination of the game will show that Black could not exchange pieces safely.
(e) A fatal error.

CHESS ENIGMAS.

No. 922.—By J. STONERHOUSE.

White: K at Q 3rd, Q at K B 3rd, R at K sq and K 3rd, B at K R 5th, Kt at Q Kt 4th.

Black: K at Q Kt 7th, Kt at Q Kt 8th; Ps at Q 5th, Q Kt 4th and 6th.

White to play and mate in three moves.

No. 923.—By J. B., of Bridport.

White: K at K Kt 5th, R at Q Kt 5th, B at K sq, Kt at Q B 3rd; Ps at K 2nd and Q 5th.

Black: K at Q 5th, Ps at K Kt 3rd and Q 5th.

White to play and mate in four moves.

No. 924.—By WINNER SCHACHZEITUNG.

White: K at B 2nd, Q at K R 7th, Bs at Q 8th and Q Kt sq, Kt at Q B 5th.

Black: K at Q 4th, R at Q B sq, Kt at Q R 3rd.

White to play and mate in three moves.

THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY.—The late arrangements of the Emperor Alexander II. have been the subject of much discussion. It is said that they were caused by the desire of the Emperor to have a more intimate acquaintance with the people of his empire. The Emperor is said to have been very much interested in the people, and to have been very much surprised at the state of the empire. He is said to have been very much interested in the people, and to have been very much surprised at the state of the empire. He is said to have been very much interested in the people, and to have been very much surprised at the state of the empire.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

Her Majesty has signified her commands that the Thames Regatta shall be under her Royal patronage, and adopt the title of the "Royal Thames National Regatta."

The King of Prussia continues to keep his room in spite of the continued improvement that the *St. Louis* assures us takes place daily in his health.

The new Royal yacht, *Victoria and Albert*, is about to go out to sea on a trial trip as far, it is reported, as Gibraltar.

A new apartment in the Vatican is hung with tapestry presented to the Pope by the Sultan.

On the 21st inst. the Earl of Westmoreland left Vienna for Ischl, where Lady Westmoreland has been for some time. His Lordship has never before quitted the walls of Vienna since his first arrival in Vienna in 1831, excepting for a few days, when he was summoned to England to attend the funeral of the late Duke of Wellington.

From a correspondence which appears in the papers, it appears that Lord Panmure sent a message by telegraph to Lord Raglan, requesting him to give orders for the protection of the Museum and other works of art at Kertch.

The Emperor of Austria has given orders to the Academy of Art to prepare a magnificent mass-book to be sent as a present to the Pope.

The Empress of Austria arrived on the evening of the 20th inst. at Possenhofen, in Bavaria. The Duke and Duchess, her parents, went to meet her. It is expected that her Majesty will return to Vienna on the 17th July; and that the Emperor will arrive in that capital on the 9th, from his tour of inspection to Galicia.

At the demonstration in Hyde-park on Sunday, Lord and Lady Wilton and Lady Granville were obliged to leave their carriages at the demand of the multitude. Several horses bolted, and three or four difficult escapes took place.

An assurance has been given to the King of Sardinia that a representative of his Government shall be admitted to the next Conference, which, it is suggested, may probably be held at Frankfurt instead of Vienna.

The Committee of the House of Lords appointed to consider Earl Shaftesbury's bill for the limitation of the hours of labour amongst needlewomen report that it is inexpedient to proceed with the consideration of the measure.

The King of Portugal and the Duke of Oporto have determined to proceed from Marseilles to Rome, his Majesty being desirous of obtaining the blessing of the Pope on the reign he is about to commence.

On the 20th inst. the Grand Duke Nicholas reviewed the troops at Helsingfors and Abo, and inspected the fortifications of Sveaborg.

On the late anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, Lord Seaton caused a gratuity of 5s. to be given to each survivor of the memorable conflict at present residing in Kilmainham Hospital.

The mission of Count Azeglio to the Courts of Paris and London is connected with the demand of Sardinia to be allowed a voice in any future negotiations for peace.

Prince Napoleon is sufficiently recovered from his indisposition to hold his usual weekly reception.

The Attorney-General for Ireland entertained a number of his friends at dinner on Saturday at the Crown and Sceptre, Greenwield.

It is said that there will probably be a vacancy in the Professorship of Natural Philosophy in Queen's College, Cork, in October next, as it is the intention of Professor Shaw to accept a tutorship in Trinity College, Dublin, at the end of the long vacation.

The President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians postponed their vote on Wednesday last, on account of a severe domestic affliction which has befallen the President.

Riza Bey, who acted as secretary to Aali Pacha at the Vienna Conference, has been appointed first secretary to the Turkish Embassy at Paris.

On Saturday morning the Roman Catholic Bishop of Galway, the Right Rev. L. O'Donnell, sat down to breakfast in apparently good health. Suddenly he was seized with illness, and within a very brief time ceased to exist.

The Bishop of Poitiers ordered prayers to be offered up in his diocese, last week, for the cessation of the ungenial weather.

The illustrious composer, Meyerbeer, was graciously received at Buckingham Palace last week. The maestro is daily engaged presiding at the rehearsals of "L'Etoile du Nord."

Sir E. N. Buxton, Bart., late M.P., is lying dangerously ill at the residence of his father-in-law, Samuel Garney, Esq., Ham-house, Upton-park.

Colonel A. Bundi has been definitively appointed to the command of the Anglo-Swiss Legion, with pay amounting to £2500 a year.

A private reformatory for juvenile criminals whose term of punishment has expired has been established in the New Forest, by Mr. Compiton, M.P. for South Hants.

Mademoiselle Rachel, it is expected, will visit this country on her way to the United States, and perform four of her principal characters at the St. James's Theatre.

The statue of Allan Ramsay is to be erected in Edinburgh, where a memorial to the poetical barber has long been a desideratum. It will stand at the end of a terrace near the head of the Mound.

Abd-el-Kader has received the permission of the French Government to reside at Constantinople, in consequence of the partial destruction of Broussa by earthquakes.

The Arctic expedition in search of Lieutenant Kane sailed from New York on the 3rd inst. The expedition will proceed up Baffin's Bay, visiting the most prominent headlands.

The price for the Bath-chairs which are to be allowed to circulate in the Paris Exhibition Palace has been fixed at 1s. 8d. the hour, including the remuneration to the man who conducts the vehicle.

As it is feared there will be a deficiency of water at Liverpool this year it has been resolved to water the streets with sea water.

A society for enabling liberated convicts to emigrate to America was formed two years ago at Drammen, in Norway, and it has already sent out thirty-two persons, all of whom are doing well.

The gambling establishment near Thonon, on the banks of the Lake of Geneva, has just been closed by order of the Sardinian Government. It is also said that a general measure will shortly be adopted for closing all the places of play in the Sardinian States.

The corn inspectors in the market towns have received orders from the Board of Trade to enforce the penalties against corn-dealers who do not furnish particulars of sales of corn as to quantity and prices.

In order to afford the public greater facility for viewing the Paris Exhibition Palace and the *Beaux Arts*, the doors will henceforth be opened at nine o'clock in the morning—instead of eleven, as heretofore—and remain open till six.

The British Association will meet in Glasgow on the 12th September. Trips to Arran, Bea Lomond, and Loch Lomond will be included in the programme of the week.

The *Journal de la Corse* announces the discovery of a mine of mercury in the district of Ajaccio.

A comparison of the sums insured against loss by fire, in the different assurance societies of the country, shows that property exceeding in value one thousand millions sterling is thus protected.

A proclamation has been published in Altona prohibiting enlistments for the Foreign Legion. The penalty for disobedience is eight years' imprisonment and hard labour.

The United States Post-office department has had its attention directed to the fact that vessels were preparing to carry letters across the ocean at postage rates less than those established by law.

Three Jews have been arrested at New York and committed to prison for enlisting soldiers for the British Foreign Legion.

A loan is to be contracted by the Western Powers, on account of Turkey, to the extent of £4,000,000. The general impression is that one-half of this will be raised in London under the guarantee of the English Government, and the other half in Paris by the French Government.

The typhus fever is making fearful ravages amongst the Russian army in Poland.

Above two hundred eminent scientific foreigners have been invited by the local committee to attend the meeting of the British Association in September next. Among the names are those of Louis Agassiz, Princes Charles and Lucien Bonaparte, Baron Humboldt, M. Leverrier, Baron Liebig, M. Quetelet, Chevalier Bunsen, Professor Haeckel, Dr. Freund, &c.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* of the 15th prints at full length Mr. Cobden's and Sir James Graham's speeches in the sitting of the House of Commons on the 1st inst. The speech of the latter, in answer to the West Riding is plentifully garnished with "Bravos!" "Longue et bruyants bravos!" &c., conveying the notion that the sentiments were peculiarly palatable to the assembly.



THE VALLEY OF DEATH," BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.—(SEE PAGE 670.)



THE REDOUBT CANROBERT, BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

SKETCHES BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.

The two large Views engraved upon the preceding pages will be best described in the words of our artist:—

"I send you (he writes) a drawing, which I think interesting, not only for its extraordinary subject, but from its being a well-known spot to all going down to the trenches, and constantly referred to in private letters home. It is called 'The Valley of Death,' and a most appropriate name you would say it was, could you see it as I have seen it at twilight. Just as the night relief have passed, the enemy invariably blaze away; shot and shell come spinning over the right side of the ravine (as may be seen by referring to my sketch), striking the ridge, sending a cloud of dust and stones into the air, or, clearing the top, pitch into the valley, where they either ricochet or bury themselves in the middle of the ravine. The accompanying sketch I made entirely from nature; and the number and position of the shot and pieces of shell have conscientiously been drawn from nature: of necessity a great quantity were behind the rocks, or hidden in the hollows of the ground or long grass; which accounts for a remark of some officers who knew the spot, that I had not put a sufficient number of shot into my drawing. It may, however, serve to give you some idea of the quantity of ammunition that our enemies have expended, when it is taken into consideration that nearly all in this portion of the ravine must have come from the Russian, and very few from the Flagstaff (two only of the Russian batteries); and, further, that our men have at different times collected the shot, the sizes of which suited our guns, and thus enabled them politely to return the shot to the Russians.

I next send you a view of the Redoubt Canrobert, near the small town of Tchernaya, looking over the Tchernaya on the one side, and the plains of Balaklava on the other. The guns of the redoubt are manned by our artillerymen; but the covering-party, the men for the trenches and advanced pickets, are supplied by the French. They often exchange shots with the outpost of the enemy, who are posted, and can be seen, on the opposite side of the Tchernaya.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN LYONS, R.N.—We deeply regret to announce, as the latest casualty of the war, the death of this gallant officer, while in command of his ship the *Miranda*, in the Sea of Azoff. The intelligence reached the Admiralty on Wednesday afternoon, and was immediately communicated by Sir Charles Wood to the Countess of Arundel, sister of the lamented officer. The precise circumstances under which Captain Lyons met his death have not yet publicly transpired, but we believe it may be correctly stated that his life has fallen a sacrifice to his devotion to the service of his country. A rifle-ball, while on the paddle-box of his ship, is stated to have been the cause of his lamented death, after a too short but glorious career.—*Post*.

THE QUEEN AND OUR WOUNDED SOLDIERS.—An official order from the Horse Guards was received at Chatham on Tuesday by the commandant of Chatham Garrison, directing that returns are to be made and forwarded to her Majesty, as soon as possible, of the names of all the wounded soldiers from the Crimea who were paraded for her Majesty's inspection on her recent visit to Chatham, on the 19th inst. Each man's corps is to be given, how he is wounded, in what battle he fought, and his age and length of service. Invalids who are in the list, and were inspected on the former visit by her Majesty in March last, are to have a cross placed against each name. This order, which is so promptly to be attended to, leaves no doubt but that it is her Majesty's intention to distribute medals for service in the Crimea to all those non-commissioned officers and soldiers at the invalid depôts, from nearly every regiment engaged in the campaign in the East, as soon as everything is ready.

On Wednesday between fifty and sixty non-commissioned officers and gunners and drivers of the Royal Artillery were discharged from the service. Most of these men were wounded in the battles of the Alma and Inkerman, and in the trenches before Sebastopol. Some have lost an arm, others a leg, and one poor fellow, named Davis, lost both his arms.

On Tuesday orders were issued from the Horse Guards for a return of the entire number of effective men now attached to the Brigade of Guards, for draughts of men to be told off to proceed immediately to reinforce the battalions of the Guards now at the seat of war. The return is not to include those men who have over eighteen years' service. The number of men to go out from the Guards by this draught is—Grenadiers, 300 rank and file; Scots Fusiliers, 250 rank and file; and Coldstream Guards, 250 rank and file—giving a total of 800. The draught is expected to embark early in July at Portsmouth, proceeding direct to Balaklava.

On Saturday evening the *Golden Fleece* left her moorings at Queenstown, and steamed to the man-of-war roads, where she took up her berth for the night, and on Sunday morning she took her departure for the Crimea. Her entire living freight, on leaving Queenstown was, besides her crew, 456 men and 305 horses.

The *Calcutta* has landed the guns belonging to the floating batteries *Glutton* and *Meteor*. Bedding, &c., has been sent on board for 100 supernumerary seamen, and she is under sailing orders to proceed to the Baltic with all possible dispatch. This ship has been converted into a store-ship of considerable magnitude.

NEW FIRE-ESCAPE.

A PHILANTHROPIC gentleman who has long deplored the helpless condition in which by far the great majority of persons, rich and poor alike, find themselves in the event of a sudden outbreak of fire, has just succeeded in perfecting an Escape which, from its simplicity, as well as from its cheapness, is calculated for universal adoption.

An aversion to anything conspicuous is one of the characteristics—perhaps, to a certain extent, one of the weaknesses—of the English character; and this point has not been lost sight of. The Family Fire-Escape is so contrived that it can be placed in a box, and form part of the ordinary furniture of a bed-room, where it is always at hand, and at a moment's notice ready to perform the duty of saving valuable lives.

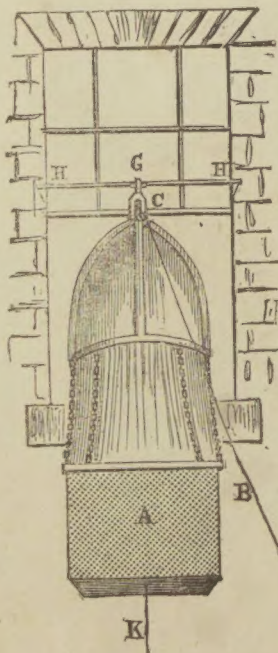
The Escape in question possesses most important advantages over any that has ever been placed before the public. It is most moderate in price; so simply constructed as not to be able to get "out of order," and, as will clearly appear from the following description, no persons, be they ever so old, ever so weak, ever so timid, can go wrong in the use of it.

The View in the Engraving is a front one, and shows the window of a house with the Fire-Escape fitted to it.

A is a cradle of wire-work or other suitable material, consisting of a lower portion, which is closed at the sides and bottom and open at top, and connected by chains or rods to a hood or dome, which is open on the side next to the house. The cradle is lined with canvas, which has been steeped in alum, or otherwise rendered unflammable.

An ordinary rope or wire rope (B) is attached to the top of the hood and passed round the pulley (C), which is furnished with a hook for the purpose of suspending it to the cross-bar (H H), which bar has a loop (G). When a fire occurs the window is thrown open, and the block (C) hooked on to the loop (G).

The rope (B) is thrown out and held by any person in the street. It may also be held by a person in the room, or even by the person about to descend. The cradle is pushed out with its flat or open side next to the window, and a person stepping out of the window cannot fail to step into it. A guide-rope (K) is fixed to the bottom of the escape. The beauty of the invention consists in its perfect security.



MESSRS. STRAHAN, PAUL, AND CO.'S BANKRUPTCY.

EXTRAORDINARY DISCLOSURES.
A meeting for the proof of debts and choice of assignees in the bankruptcy of William Strahan, Sir John Dean Paul, Bart., and Robert Makin Bates, who had carried on business as bankers at 217, Strand, and also the business of navy-agents, at 41, Norfolk-street, Strand, under the style of Halford and Co., took place at the Court of Bankruptcy, Basinghall-street, on Monday last, before Mr. Commissioner Evans. The petition was filed on the 11th of June. The petitioning creditor is Montague John Tatham, proctor, of 26, Great Carter-lane, who is a creditor for £1594, in respect of the balance of an account of moneys had and received by the bankrupts as bankers, in respect of which no security or satisfaction had been given. The public are aware that criminal proceedings are pending against these bankrupts under the 7th and 8th of George IV., sec. 49, by which any person convicted of unlawfully disposing of securities liable to be transported beyond the seas for any term not exceeding fourteen nor less than seven years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding three years. The case caused intense interest, and the court was crowded to excess.

The proceedings were commenced by Mr. Lawrence, the solicitor to the petition, who stated that, for the sake of convenience, sundry proofs of debt had been taken out of court and passed by the official assignee. His Honour then directed that the names of the respective creditors who had thus proved their debts out of court should now be read aloud in open court, so that it might be ascertained if there were any opposition to them.

Mr. Lawrence said that, in order to mitigate the pressure in this court, which was extreme, the registrar (Mr. Abraham) was taking proofs in another court. Mr. Ballantine appeared for Mr. Strahan and Sir John Dean Paul; Mr. Parry for Mr. Bates; Mr. Chidley for the Marquis of Clanricarde, Lord Galloway, and other creditors, the aggregate in amount being about £250,000; and Mr. Linklater for Sir Lucius Curtis and other creditors; and Mr. Cooper for several noblemen. Mr. Lawrence said, as a great many of the creditors were present, it might be satisfactory to them to have the figures, which were an approximation at least to the correct sums, so far as he had been able to ascertain them. The following statement was then handed in by Mr. Lawrence:—

Total creditors unsecured	£502,372	3	4
Add Earl Fitzwilliam's balance of debtor and creditor account	£1454	5	0
Sir J. D. Paul	1238	15	6
	2,743	0	6
	£505,115	3	10

Deduct in Sir J. D. Paul's separate account £72,250, of this—			
—Loan	£27,000	0	0
Ditto	10,000	0	0
	£37,000	0	0
Namur and Liège Railway	4,910	8	4
Office extents	2,787	16	7
	£44,698	4	7

Amount raised on securities	113,000	0	0
Halford and Co.	26,522	0	0
Liabilities, value received	68,220	0	0
Ditto, no value	12,500	0	0
	£180,242	0	0

ASSETS.			
Debtors on loans considered good, say	£100,000	0	0
Ditto, overdrawn account	20,000	0	0
Debtors, bad and doubtful	276,445	17	0
Not carried out—			
Halford and Co., debtor balance	19,009	5	0
Bad and doubtful, not carried out	119,902	0	0
Sundry bad debts	31,440	0	0
Sundry debts secured—			
By policies of insurance	£1,300	0	0
"	9,000	0	0
"	6,000	0	0
Say value	£19,300	0	0
	6,000	0	0
	£13,300	0	0

Bills discounted, supposed good	9,000	0	0
Sundry shares and securities at bankers, say	5,000	0	0
Debts due to Halford and Co., say	35,000	0	0
	£49,000	0	0
	180,000	0	0
	640,093	12	2
Liability for which no value received	12,500	0	0
	£652,593	12	2

Mr. Lawrence said it would appear that the gross amount of debts against the firm was £680,000; that was quite irrespective of any deficiency which might be found in the security held by creditors, and irrespective of any surplus which might come from those securities. The assets were, as nearly as possible—debtors on loans, £100,000; ditto, amount due on overdrawn account, £20,000; bad and doubtful debts not carried out, £276,445; Halford and Co., £19,009, which was not an asset; and bad debts, £31,440. These items are rather as a matter of account, for, of course, as assets, much had depended on realisation. With respect to Halford and Co., the accounts kept at that house were principally kept by a class who were in the habit of drawing in anticipation of their credit. They expected from Halford and Co. about £20,000 upon overdrawn accounts, inasmuch as the debts of Halford and Co. had all to be proved against the estate; the same partners constituted both firms; the £20,000 would be in addition to the sums already given. The firm of Halford and Co., if it stood alone, would be solvent with a surplus, inasmuch as the debts proved against that estate were less than the assets by the sum of £20,000; but of course, from the fact that the same men were in both firms, it was really one common account. There were bills discounted, and supposed to be good, in the hands of the official assignee, to the amount of £9,000. Sundry shares and securities at the banking-house were estimated at £5,000. If all the separate debts of Mr. Strahan were paid in full, there would be a surplus to the joint estate of £5,000. The preceding figures were of course liable to alteration on subsequent investigation. The assets would be, speaking in round numbers, and judging from present appearances, £150,000 or £160,000, without reference to the large sums advanced on foreign railroads, and which would represent an item of £276,000.

The Official Assignee: So I have guessed; but I cannot speak positively.

Mr. Cooper said he appeared for several noblemen and gentlemen who had proved their debts against this estate, and as the case was one of no ordinary character, he hoped the Court would direct a full and searching investigation. Several of the creditors might have larger claims than those for which they had proved, but they could not discover the exact amount until the accounts of the bankrupts had been examined, and the bankrupts themselves, to see what securities had been disposed of by them without the knowledge of their customers. He had to ask the Court, on behalf of those creditors, and for the convenience of the estate at large, to adjourn the choice of assignees to some future day, and to let the present sitting be devoted to the reception of proofs, as far as they went, and to the examination (if necessary) of the bankrupts. This step was the more necessary, as there would be a severe contest as to what gentlemen should be appointed assignees, and that contest ought not to be got rid of. Another reason for adjourning the meeting was because, on looking through the proceedings, it would be found that there were many affidavits that had been taken at the private houses of individuals, some of whom had given proxies giving certain persons the right to vote on their behalf to-day. It might turn out right and prudent that that should have been done, or it might turn out that those persons who had made affidavits to an itinerant commissioner were not aware they had the opportunity of proving and voting in person for the choice of assignees. No inconvenience could arise to this estate from an adjournment, as, practically, the duties of the assignees would be discharged by the official assignees until trade assignees were appointed, or any perishable goods might be sold by special rule of the Court. That room and the next were crowded with creditors, and most likely many of those who proved would go away without voting. There were grave charges against the bankrupts—founded or unfounded he would not venture to say; but, at all events, there were charges which involved the necessity of a full investigation. Those charges might involve some of the creditors who had now proved, and until the examination of the bankrupts it could not be said the proofs were without objection, and that the creditors were all entitled to vote for the choice.

Mr. Lawrence did not know whether he need occupy the Court in replying to the very vague and unsatisfactory statement made by Mr. Cooper, without mentioning the names of the creditors to whom that statement applied.

His Honour: I do not see the least reason for an adjournment. Mr. Parry said he appeared for Mr. Bates, who was very desirous, as were the other two bankrupts, to disclose for the benefit of the estate certain transactions which had taken place in reference to the securities deposited with the bankrupts by various creditors who had proved their debts to-day. The conduct of the bankrupts would, no doubt, be fully discussed before his Honour, who would have to decide upon it; but, on the part of Mr. Bates, he now asked permission to examine him as to certain transactions, believing that the disclosures he would make would be beneficial to the creditors. In reference to what had been said as to some of the creditors not knowing what had become of their securities, Mr. Bates had prepared the following perfect statement of every security, whether Exchequer Bills, shares, or other kind of security, and this he was anxious to lay before the Court. He was desirous to take the

first opportunity of placing it before the Court, and depositing it in the hands of the official assignee.

His Honour: Has he given it to the official assignee?

Mr. Bell: No.

Mr. Parry: I now hand it in.

The following is the statement referred to:—

LIST OF PARTIES WHOSE SECURITIES ARE SOLD.
Exchequer Bills: Lady Carnarvon, 500; Admiral Aylmer (H. and Co.), 500; Captain Frederick (H. and Co.), 800; Duke of Rutland (Militia account), 100; Tollermeche and Collett, 500; Lord Manners, 300; A. D. Wiggall, 5000; Strahan and Co., 2800. Brazilian Four-and-a-half per Cents: C. A. Caldwell, 12,000. Brazilian Five per Cents: Mrs. Weir, 7700; Mrs. Hare, 600; J. Tregonwell, 2400; Mrs. L. Herbert, 2500; Mrs. Yatman, 200. India Bonds: R. K. Neville, 10,400; Mrs. Strickland, 300; W. C. Morland, 3000; Sir A. Clifford, 1900. Canada Five per Cents: Wynn, Tyler, Brown, and Kirwan, 6000. Danish Three per Cents: Dr. Griffith, 10,000. Danish Five per Cents: Dr. Griffith, 5000. Dutch Two-and-a-half per Cents: Dr. Griffith, 150,000; Amelia Baidard, 34,000; E. S. Baidard, 42,000; Julia Baidard, 34,000; Miss Churchill, 39,000; Sir A. Clifford, 36,000; G. S. Gough, 11,000; R. H. B. Hall, 30,000; Dalton, 7,000; Burton (Halford and Co.), 75,000; Captain Jones (Halford and Co.), 106,800; Morris (Halford and Co.), 9000; Heringham (Halford and Co.), 28,000; Bailey (Halford and Co.), 19,000; Heppan (Trustee), 65,000; Miss Reynolds, 19,000; E. Sawbridge, 24,000; Mrs. J. Streetfield (Trustee), 57,000; Mrs. F. Streetfield, 40,000; John Tregonwell, 50,000; George Willis, 12,000. Dutch Three-and-a-half per Cents: Madame Charlotte, 88,000. Dutch Four per Cents: Colonel Peacocke, 20,000; Mrs. Boyd, 13,000; Miss Mayrick, 12,000; Admiral Aylmer, 6000.

LIST OF SECURITIES SOLD OR DEPOSITED.			
588,000 fls. Dutch Two-and-a-half per Cents	Peppercorn	£23,000	0
14,500 India Bonds	Ditto	14,500	0
10,500 Exchequer Bills (March)	Ditto	10,500	0
120,000 Dutch Two-and-a-half per Cents	Sold	6,137	10
10,000 Danish Three per Cents	Ditto	7,437	10
150,000 Dutch Two-and-a-half per Cents			
88,000 Dutch Three-and-a-half per Cents			
50,000 Dutch Four per Cents	Overend, Gurney, and Co.	27,000	0
6,000 Canada Bonds			
5,000 Danish Five per Cents			
2,700 Brazilian Five per Cents			
12,000 Brazilian Four-and-a-half per Cents	Burnard and Co.	20,000	0
10,000 Ditto Five per Cents			
1,300 India Bonds	Sold		
		£113,625	0

Mr. Ballantine said the three bankrupts were prepared to swear to this. His Honour: Are there any more proofs? If so, let them be disposed of first.

Mr. Lawrence said the following were prepared to act as trade assignees:—Mr. Barwis, navy-agent, New Boswell-court; Mr. Charles Appleyard, solicitor, of Lincoln's-inn; and Mr. Edmund Waller, stationer, Fleet-street.

These gentlemen were subsequently appointed. No other creditors were proposed in opposition to them.

Mr. Parry (to Mr. Lawrence): Do you wish to ask the bankrupts any questions?

Mr. Lawrence (to Mr. Bates): Have you signed that statement?

Mr. Bates: I have.

Mr. Lawrence: By whom was it prepared?

Mr. Parry: By the three bankrupts jointly. It was prepared by Mr. Bates, and signed by Sir J. D. Paul and Mr. Strahan.

Mr. Lawrence (to the other bankrupts): You have heard that declaration read over and signed it?

The Bankrupts: Yes.

Mr. Parry renewed his application for Mr. Bates to be examined, stating that his client was anxious to disclose everything he knew as to all the transactions. Mr. Evans refused the application; he could see no reason for granting it. In reply to various questions put by Mr. Lawrence, the bankrupts said the statement handed in by Mr. Parry had been prepared by Mr. Bates, and signed by Sir J. D. Paul and Mr. Strahan, that it contained a full account of all the securities which have been sold, dealt in, or pledged by them, which they understood to be the property of their creditors, and finally that all the other securities in their bank were safe, except those contained in the list.

Debts to the amount of about £224,465 were proved during the day. Messrs. Lawrence, Plews, and Boyer, are solicitors to the assignees, and Mr. Turquand, of Old Jewry-chambers, is accountant to the estate.

Among the creditors are—Lord Palmerston, the Duke of Devonshire, Earl of Carnarvon, Viscountess Melbourne, Earl of Dysart, Sir A. Ashton, Sir C. Coote, Sir Charles Young, Lord Lisburne, Wadham College, Lord Cavendish, Earl of Burlington, Mr. W. Spottiswoode, Queen's printer; the Duke of Rutland, Lord J. R. Manners, the Right Hon. C. C. Manners, Lord Galloway, Countess Craven, Countess of Verulam, Marquis of Clanricarde, Sir Lucius Curtis, Lieutenant-General Thomson, Lord Muncaster, Lieutenant-General Buller, Sir B. Macnamara, Lady Manners, Earl of Bradford, &c.

The following particulars, from "Dod's Peerage, Baronage, and Knightage," will be read with interest at the present moment:—

Paul, second Baronet (United Kingdom). Created 1821. Sir John Dean Paul, son of the first baronet by his second wife, the relict of Berkeley Napier, Esq., of Pennard House, Somerset (she died 1842). Born at 218, Strand, 1802; married, first, 1826, third daughter of Charles Geo. Beauchamp, Esq., of St. Leonard's Lodge, Sussex (she died 1847); secondly, 1849, only surviving daughter of the late John Ewens, Esq., of Brighton; succeeded his father in 1852; is a partner in the banking firm of Snow, Strahan, Paul, and Co. Is grand-nephew of Sir Onesiphorus Paul, first baronet, whose title was created in 1762, and became extinct in 1820. Residences—218, Strand, London; Hill House, Stroud, Gloucestershire; Pennard, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Heir, his son by the first marriage, Aubrey John Dean; born in London, 1827; married, 1851, the second daughter of Sir John Lister Lister Kay, Bart.

Sir J. D. Paul, Mr. Strahan, and Mr. Bates were brought up from the House of Detention, in the custody of Lieutenant Hill, the Governor of the prison, on Wednesday, and placed at the bar before Mr. Jardine, at Bow-street, charged with fraudulently disposing of Dr. Griffith's securities valued at £22,000. It was arranged between the Bar and the Court at the previous examination that the remand till Wednesday should be merely of a formal character, to comply with the provisions of the Act limiting all remands to eight days, it being the intention of the learned counsel for the prosecution, Mr. Bodkin, to defer the progress of the inquiry till Wednesday next in spite of the publicity given to this understanding, there was no apparent diminution in the anxiety of the public to be present, the court being crowded to excess immediately after the doors were opened. They had scarcely, however, secured the positions respectively taken up, after the struggle for admission, when the three prisoners were removed from the dock—the whole proceeding scarcely occupying five minutes. Mr. Jardine said it would be understood that the prisoners were again remanded till Wednesday next, at the same hour. They were accordingly taken back to prison.

THE SIEGE OF BADAJOZ.—On more than one memorable occasion in his career in the Peninsula the Duke of Wellington not only employed similar means, but staked the fate of his army on their success, and especially on the third siege of Badajoz, in 1812. Contrary to all calculation, the Picurina, an outwork of the town somewhat resembling by its position the Malena or Kamtschatka Redoubt before Sebastopol, was forced without being battered, and Badajoz itself was carried by storm before the counterscarp was blown in or the fire of the place silenced. No man who has ever read it can have forgotten the language in which the historian of that great contest relates the most terrible action of the war. The ramparts, crowded with dark figures and glittering arms, just illuminated by the glare of flames from below; the red columns of the British, deep and broad, coming on like streams of burning lava; the sudden arrival of the Light Division and the Fourth Division on the brink of the yawning chasm, into which they dashed with incredible fury, some to be smothered in the wet ditch beneath, some to be dashed by the shot against the strong palisade, some to be torn upon the jagged range of sword-blades fixed in ponderous beams which defended the top of the breach. For two hours did our men persevere with indomitable courage in the attempt to force their way through this scene of slaughter, and it was not until hundreds of the boldest and bravest had perished that they were compelled to acknowledge that the breach of the Trinidad was impregnable. It was past midnight, and 2000 men had already fallen, when the Duke of Wellington ordered the remainder to retire and re-form for a second assault. Even that order was executed with difficulty, and the fate of Badajoz might have been undecided that night if other portions of the troops had not found means to scale the Castle and to carry a bastion, and enter the town at a different point. Out of the Anglo-Portuguese army of 22,000 men no less than 5000 fell at the siege of Badajoz, and 3750 at the assault alone.—*Times*.

RUSSIAN SPIES.—It is affirmed in political circles here that information of what passes in France is regularly transmitted from Paris to St. Petersburg. It appears that a certain Russian Prince (one of three or four brothers who had been more or less implicated in the earlier conspiracies against the Emperor Nicholas, and who had been condemned to exile in Siberia), has long resided, and is still residing, in this capital, notwithstanding the war with Russia. The person in question, though some years older than the present Czar, was educated with him; and, notwithstanding their separation, they have not ceased to be on terms of the greatest intimacy. It is this person who is said to carry on the correspondence in question with the Court of St. Petersburg. The letters are sent by Denmark and Sweden, and thence to Russia with the greatest regularity. Every particular, however minute, is faithfully noted and communicated for the information of the Emperor Alexander, who, I dare say, is as well informed of all that occurs in Paris and the seaports as if he were on the spot himself. I believe that the movements of this person have been watched for some time; and the importance of the question at issue requires that every precaution should be adopted against the system of Russian espionage which is still known to exist, and in high quarters, in the capital of one of the belligerent Powers.—*Letter from Paris*.

THE BEST ENGLISH WATCHES.—A. B. SAVORY AND SONS request the attention of purchasers to their Stock of London-made Patent Lever Watches, which are manufactured by themselves on the premises. In Silver Cases, with the detached escapement and jewelled, the prices are 45s. 6s. and 8 Guineas each; or, in Gold Cases, 10, 12, 14, and 16 Guineas each. A large Stock offered for selection includes every description of watch, enabling the purchaser to select the price and quality adapted for his own use. Lists of prices, with Remarks on the Construction of Watches, gratis.—A. B. Savory and Sons, 11 and 12, Cornhill, London (opposite the Bank of England).

NEW MUSIC, &c.

seeking a resident out of England. As no duties are paid in Guernsey, excepting one shilling per gallon on spirits, the average price of gallons on wines, being the ordinary price in England. There are several vineyards in the island, especially Elizabeth College, a Royal foundation, conducted by members of the University, where youths, in addition to the instruction given at the public schools of England, are taught the modern languages, engineering, and other branches of knowledge. Houses of various sizes, in town or country, may be obtained, furnished or unfurnished, at very moderate rents. There are steam-packets from and to England five times a week.—For information, apply to Mr. Stephen Barbot, Jun., Bookseller, &c., 25, High-street, Guernsey.